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July 2012

Artist Interview

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Super smooth colour



Mel Noir

Our straight shooting fast riding columnist

WIN
Buddy Olli's
New Book
Tattooing
Über Alles

Zombie Boy

Rick Genest talks exclusively to Total Tattoo

Artist Feature

Pino Cafaro

Sublime Japanese tattoos

Tattoo Shows

The Scottish Convention

North Lakes Tattoo Show

Portsmouth Tattoo Extravaganza

Helsinki Ink

Gary Wiedenhof

of Inkredible Kreations
in our mugshot hotseat



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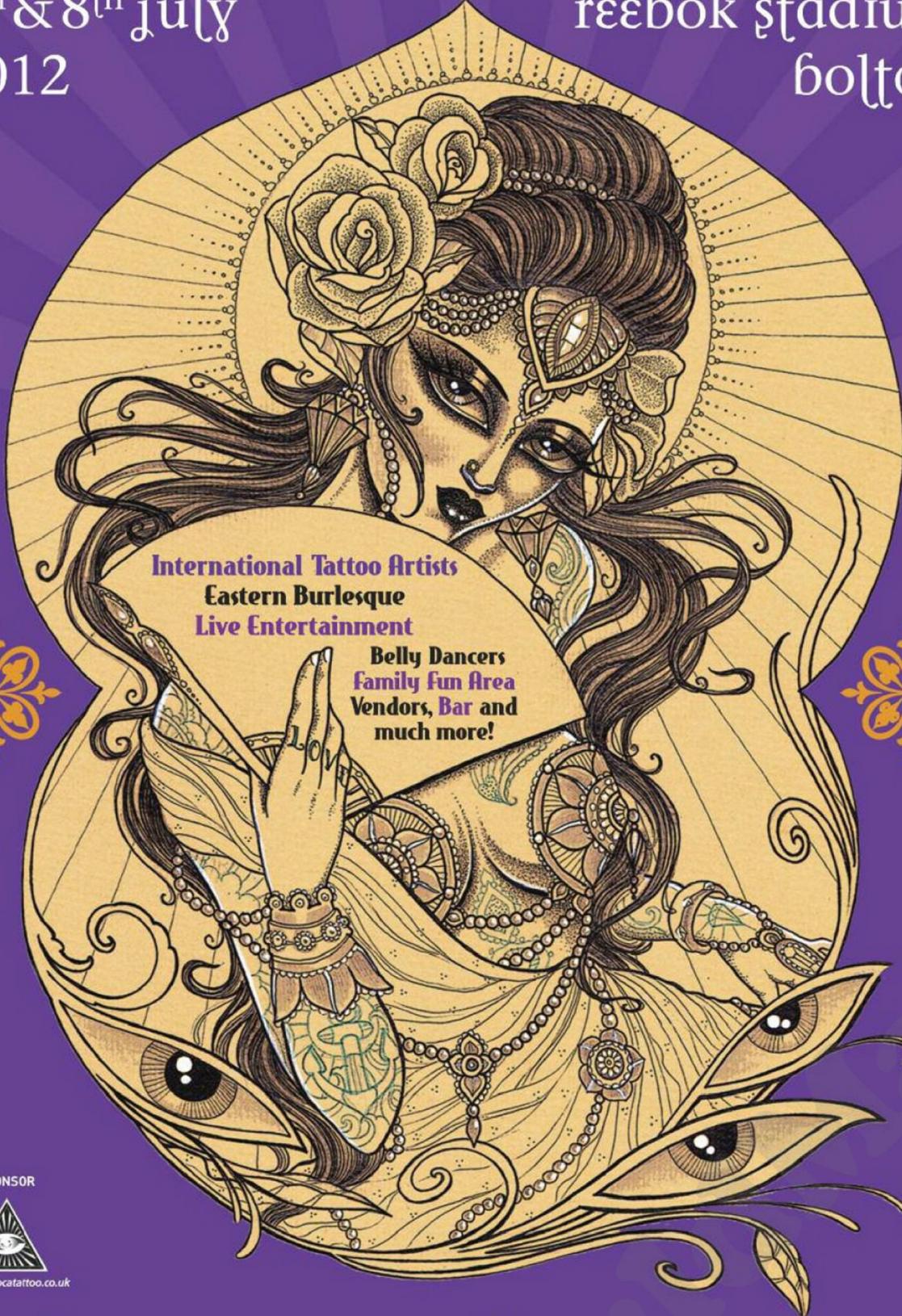
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SUBMITTING PHOTOS

We love to see the tattoos you do and the tattoos you wear. The images must be high resolution (at least 300 dpi) and sized at least 100mm by 150mm. You can send your photos on a disc to

**Gallery, Total Tattoo, PO Box 10038,
Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 7WL, UK**

The disc must be labelled with the artist & studio name.

Or you can email your photos to
gallerystudio@totaltattoo.co.uk

Don't forget to include the artist & studio name in the email.

Please don't send photos to any of our other email addresses. Bear in mind that we receive hundreds of photos each week and not all them will make it into the magazine.

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Please note that we are unable to accept adverts for tattoo supplies - machines, needles, inks, etc. However, we are happy to accept adverts for auxiliary products such as hygiene equipment and studio furniture. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information or advice on this.

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EDITORIAL

In our lives today, very little is permanent. In fact it would seem that the things we value most are often things that are impermanent, transient. Think about it: would we really want any of those times we hold dear, or those precious feelings that can only be experienced in the moment, to remain unchanged indefinitely? The word 'boredom' pops into my head whenever I think of any situation that remains the same for any length of time. There has got to be a little bit of change to keep things interesting.

Yet whenever you talk to an enthusiastic tattoo collector, it's the permanence of the tattoo that is part of the appeal (along with the art itself of course). Put the same argument in reverse and it's that very permanence that scares the bejeebers out of the tattoo window shoppers. And it's also what fuels the all-too-familiar argument of the tattoo denigrators, that perennial comment that's usually offered in a slightly concerned, slightly patronising way: "What happens when you get older?" (Oh blimey, I never thought of that...) I was recently sent a fantastic postcard on which was printed that very question, alongside a picture of three rather rotund, half-naked, heavily-whiskered and heavily-tattooed elderly gentlemen. The answer: You grow an epic beard and you look awesome! Ticks all the boxes for me.

Whenever I talk with a tattooist about the indelibility of the art they put onto their customers, they always seem to have a great respect for this aspect of their work. They have conquered their own fears about the permanence of what they do and they regard it as a privilege. Every single one of them has experienced that moment when, for the very first time, their needle entered someone's skin. They are only too aware of the trust that is placed in them – and of what a massive thing this trust is. That permanent mark holds a magic for both parties; we all know that it can create a bond like no other.

It's not really surprising that, for some people, the permanence of a tattoo is the only truly fitting way to pay tribute to – or memorialise – someone or something they love. Reality TV has done a fantastic job of selling this concept to us... and if seeing it on the TV has been the trigger or the inspiration for thousands of folk to dip their toes in the water, then who am I to argue. Especially as I'm sure quite a

number of those same folk have gone on to acquire some really impressive collections of ink; the power is in the permanence.

Over the centuries and around the globe, there have always been cultures that have recognised this power and revered the idea of permanent physical alteration – whether by tattooing, scarification, or some other form of body modification. Changing yourself permanently is big. There are not many things that will stay with you from the moment you acquire them to the day you pop your clogs. What better way to signify a coming of age or celebrate a rite of passage than to make a statement that has that kind of resonance?

Our tattoos will grow old with us; they will become part of our story. For me, they are one of the only things in my life that I am happy to have as a permanent and unchanging fixture. Of course my tattoos will age with me – I knew that when I started out on this fantastic voyage – and I'm totally comfortable with that. After all, it would be kind of strange if they just stayed looking exactly as they did on the day they were done. It's really nice to know that I have my permanent companions along with me for the ride; they are part of what makes me me. The times I have had whilst collecting them are etched in my mind and I love that fact. I got my tattoos because I wanted to look a certain way and feel a certain way – no other reason – and everything else has been an unexpected and fantastic bonus. But from day one I was certain that their appeal would never be anything other than permanent.

Until next month...

James

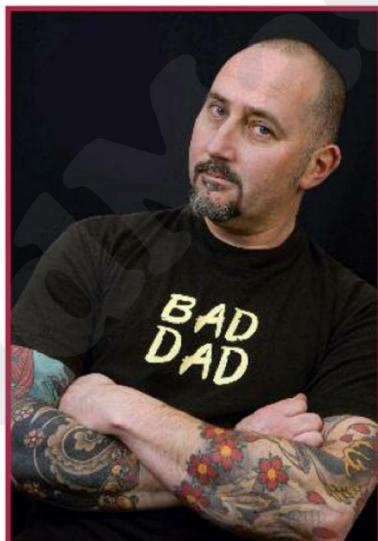
"There is nothing permanent except change."

Heraclitus

editor@totaltattoo.co.uk

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NEWSFLASH



BOOK REVIEW → Tattooing Über Alles By Buddy Olli

Publisher: Pen Pal Publishing
Available from:
www.gentlemanstattooflash.com
Price: £65.00

Total Tattoo rating ★★★★

'Tattooing Über Alles' is the first instalment of photographer and tattooist Buddy Olli's ambitious project to document the finest tattooers in the world, nation by nation. In this first volume of the series, Olli has chosen twenty one artists working in Germany; this book is an astounding showcase of their talents. Each artist's section begins with an atmospheric portrait taken by Olli and these photographs, in themselves, stand alone as works of exceptional quality. They are the glue that holds the book together and, along with some great graphic design, they help to create a continuous flow through the whole volume despite the very different artistic styles on show throughout. Each artist was asked the same five questions (which are given at the front of the book) and their answers are given in both German and English; and each artists' creative offerings – be they sketches, paintings, graffiti and of course tattoos – are given plenty of room to breathe. 'Tattooing Über Alles' has the feel of a project that has not been compromised by time limitations or messed about with by the accountants; it's one man's vision – and that man is obviously working with a team who fully understand and support that vision. This could be the start of something beautiful.



→ WIN A COPY OF TATTOOING ÜBER ALLES

Buddy Olli has very kindly provided us with four copies of this stunning book to give away. So if you fancy expanding your library, drop us a line at editor@totaltattoo.co.uk putting Tattooing Über Alles as the subject line, and let us know the answer to the following question:

Who sang the classic rock 'n' roll song 'Peggy Sue'? Was it

- a) Mister Blobby
- b) Jedward
- c) Buddy Holly

Remember to include your name and address in your e-mail. Only one entry per person, please, and the closing date is Friday 29th June. The first four correct answers picked at random after that date will each win a copy of the book.



Tattoo news and reviews for your delectation and delight. If it goes on in the tattoo world, it goes in here.
Send us your news items, books or products for review and items of general curiosity and intrigue for the tattoo cognoscenti.
News Flash, Total Tattoo Magazine, PO Box 10038, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 7WL.
Review Ratings: ★★★★ must have ★★★ should have ★★ could have ★ might have ★ don't have



WINNING WAYS

At the Liverpool Tattoo Convention in May the winners of the UK Tattoo Industry Awards were announced, all of them voted for online by members of the public. It was with a big smile on my face and a bit of a lump in my throat that I went up to collect the 'Best Tattoo Journalist' award. I was not the winner, I hasten to add. That honour went to a far more deserving person: Total Tattoo's founding editor, and now editor-in-chief, Sally Feldt. What Sally has done for the progression of the tattoo press cannot be overstated and, judging from the cheer that went up in the room, the right person got the prize. Thank you to all our readers who voted for her. Congratulations also to the other winners listed below.

James

Best Tattoo Journalist - **Sally Feldt, Total Tattoo Magazine**

Best Tattoo Photographer - **Al Overdrive**

Best UK Tattoo Publication - **Tattoo Revolution Magazine**

Best International Tattoo Publication - **Tattoo Life**

Best Online Tattoo Resource - **www.tattoo.tv**

Best UK Male Artist - **Matt 'Oddboy' Barrett-Jones**

Best UK Female Artist - **Amanda Ruby**

Best International Male Artist - **Jeff Gogué**

Best International Female Artist - **Kelly Dotty**

Tattoo Hall of Fame - **Lal Hardy**



BOOK REVIEW

Graffiti Tattoo, Vol. 2

By Alan Ket and Don Karl aka Stone

Publisher: From Here To Fame Publishing

Price: £29.99

Total Tattoo Rating ★★★

When I was asked to review Graffiti Tattoo Vol 2, I wasn't quite sure what to expect. I've seen a fair number of graffiti-inspired tattoos, but I've never seen a whole book of them. My first impression was mixed: I was impressed with the book's size, and with the graphics on the front, but I felt the cover image could have had a lot more impact. Once inside though, I really started to enjoy it. An interesting introduction leads into a catalogue of worldwide graffiti artists, some still using a spray can, some long since given up – then, for the bulk of the book, the focus is on tattoo work. Now in my opinion there is a problem with graffiti-inspired tattoos. Graffiti art is created for walls, where it's maybe going to last for a week, a month, a year. It's sometimes bold and basic; it's sometimes extremely elaborate and colourful; but, whatever its style, it's not supposed to be permanent. How do you relate the transient and ephemeral nature of graffiti to the permanent nature of tattoos? When you see graffiti art being permanently inked across someone's shoulders or down someone's arm... well I don't think it always works. Having said that, this book contains some truly great photographs of top-rate tattoos – together with a selection of graffiti photographs to illustrate each artist's personal aerosol style. Let's face it, if you're into tattoo art and have never picked up a spray can, this book isn't likely to inspire you to rush out and buy a load of spray paint and get to work – but if you're into graff and have even the vaguest idea of getting inked some time, the inspiration for your first tattoo may well be right here!

Review by Justin MacCarthy
Aka DICY



NEWSFLASH



HANDMADE HEAVY METAL

Bloody Mary Metal is a new company creating stunning jewellery. All their pieces are hand-carved then cast in silver, gold, platinum or pewter. Jeweller Lucy Wilson designs and makes all of the items in a small workshop in Cornwall, where she is apprenticing under master gold and silversmith P.K. Orton, who has over 45 years' experience in designing and manufacturing custom and classic jewellery pieces. If this headbangin' bling sounds as if it's up your street, take a gander and buy at <http://bloodymarymetal.bigcartel.com/> Oh, and there's a 10% discount for Total Tattoo readers! Simply enter the promotional code TotalMetal when you check-out. (Offer valid until Friday 6th July.)



SHOP TALK

Opened a new studio?

Got a guest artist?

Do you have a job vacancy? This is the place to spread the word! E-mail editor@totaltattoo.co.uk putting 'Shop Talk' as the subject. Please note we do not print 'Jobs wanted' adverts. Items may be edited for clarity and length.

Victor Portugal is on the move. No longer at 9th Circle, he has a new location in Krakow's Old Town: **Victor Portugal Studio**, Slawkowska 16/2, 30-900, Krakow, Poland. Tel +48 12 341 54 45. You can also keep abreast of all things Portugal by downloading his free app, 'Victor Portugal Tattoo Portfolio'.

After nearly eleven years tattooing, Sween is finally opening his own place. Called **Dark Poetry Custom Tattoo & Arts**, you can find it at 1C Smithy Street, Ramsbottom, Bury, Lancs, BL0 9AT. The new website is www.darkpoetrytattoo.com

C.J.W.inks Tattoo Studio is pleased to announce the opening of its new shop at 151 Market Street, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 2ND – with a handy car park opposite. C.J. is a female artist and now offers two late nights a week. Tel 07940099697 or take a look at www.cjwinks.webs.com

Painted Lady Tattoo Parlour has opened a new shop, Painted Lady II - The Revenge. We have some amazing artists: Jonathan Peeler, Dawnii Fantana, Matt Craven Evans, Goldilox and Matt Youl. We're

located at 6 West Heath Rd, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 3TG. Tel: 0121 608 6086.

Marley at **Ink Me Up** in Tamworth says: "We would like to welcome new tattooists Dink and Lee to our humble little shop and hope they're both very happy working with us. Pop down and say Hi to them and they will be happy to help with all your tattoo needs."

New Norwich tattoo studio **Phat Robot** have an ongoing exhibition of work by locally-based artists at their Whiffler Road premises. Currently on show is a selection of pieces by artist Jake Whitbread, aka Peaceful Warrior, and work by other artists will follow.

Tattooist required: Established studio Rising Phoenix Tattoo in Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, is looking for someone with at least 3 years' studio experience and a strong portfolio. You must be hardworking, trustworthy and able to provide references. If you think you are the right person for the job, please drop by at 6 High Street Mews, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1EA, call us on 01525 217121, or drop us an email (including information about where you are currently working or residing) at studio@risingphoenixtattoo.co.uk

Guest artist needed: Anyone fancy a week by the seaside in a nice, friendly studio? Madam Butterfly's Tattoo Parlour in Hastings is looking for a guest tattooist for holiday cover. You must have a good portfolio and be a competent all-rounder as you will be doing whatever comes through

the door! Please get in touch by e-mailing Rebecca: madambutterflys@mac.com

Pioneering **Suburban Ink** have developed and launched their own tattoo studio app (for Apple or Android). It's free to download, so go on – take it for a spin.

Piercer/receptionist sought: Happy Sailor Tattoo in London needs a competent full-time piercer/ receptionist to join our busy crew. We require 4 years' minimum experience with references, and you must have a positive attitude, pleasant personality, no drink or drugs or prima donna problems and great interpersonal skills. Please contact Tota or James on 0207 033 9222 or e-mail tattooed_tota@hotmail.com

Tattoo artist(s) wanted: Nostalgia Traditional Tattoo is looking for one full-time artist – or two part-time artists – to join the team. The shop, in a very busy spot just outside Leeds town centre, is in the process of being refurbished and renamed. It's been a tattoo shop for the last 15 years and has had some awesome well-known artists working from it. We are an uber professional shop so serious tattooers only need apply (and no beginners, apprentices, wannabe rockstars, just-outa-nappies or shop scratchers). All enquiries and portfolios to nostalgiatattoo@gmail.com

Artist required at Tiki Monkey Tattoo In Edinburgh. We are a well established studio and we are looking for a good team player with a strong portfolio and a good attitude. Minimum 3-4 years tattoo experience. Contact us direct on 0131 346 8857.



FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

We have over 36,000 fans on Facebook! From time to time we like to ask them a probing question and get a bit of a meaty discussion going. Recently we asked: "Haggling for the best price seems to be the norm these days when shopping or paying for any transaction. Would you ever haggle over the price of a tattoo?"

Vicki Vicary: Nope. Tell me the \$ and I'll pay it. I won't be cheap when it comes to the ink that is on me for the rest of my life.

Ruben Holliday Slot: Hell no!

Inky Joe Tattooer: Fuck no! And whatever the price, I always tip.

Marianne Rae: No. I choose an artist based on talent and experience and will pay accordingly.

Ross King: People try it every day. It can be pretty insulting especially when you have a set hourly rate and a set minimum price.

Lee Wozz: I suppose an artist could always reply 'Sure I can do it half price... would you mind if I'm only half concentrating and half pissed?'

Painted Leather Jackets: Definitely not. I've picked the tattoo artist on the basis that I am impressed by their work and

want the best possible tattoo for my money. Haggling would be rude and insulting. You are supposedly buying something that you want on your body forever and you should be prepared to pay for it.

Biko Issah: People do. All the time. Blame TV.

Kelly Nutbeam: Absolutely not but I do like to know how much I will be paying beforehand so that I can come with enough money. But I also bring a little extra just in case.

Terry Fuller: People try and haggle in my shop every day. Needless to say it never works and I respect them a hell of a lot less for it. There are lots of artists out there charging way more than me, doing dog shite work. I am told I am too cheap but I enjoy what I do. So if I can earn a living and be busy and do cool work, that's good enough for me. I would never haggle with any work I get done on myself. Quality over price every time.

Angie Morgan: No, but there are a few artists who over-price their work due to the hype. So it's up to you if you politely decline if you feel the artist is stroking their ego and taking the mick.

Donna Moore: Would never insult my tattooist by haggling. Yes, it's expensive but so is all good art. Try buying a Rembrandt for £50! I happily (if impatiently) wait until I can afford the work I want.

Josh Wiley: Never. I am a tattooer and I have clients come into my shop all the time basing everything on the cost. They don't care one bit about the quality. But I love it when someone tells me to just do the tattoo or when I hit them with an \$800 price tag and they don't even flinch because they know the work is worth it.

Francis Wilson: Never. It's very insulting to the artist to say that they aren't worth the money. If I can't afford it, I save until I can.

Hannah Bentham: Not a chance in hell. I ask how much the tattoo will be, just to make sure I can schedule my appointment when I can afford it. My hubby and I are lucky that we go to a good tattooist who doesn't feel the need to charge ridiculous prices.

Mark Goodwin: Yeah, sure. I make signs and window graphics for free ink. Everyone's happy.

Fiona Daly: That's bartering, not haggling.

Tom Spiller: We go up with the price if the haggling begins. It soon gives them the message that we are not going to belittle this fine craft just because some scratcher down the road will do it cheaper.

Join us on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/totaltattoomagazine for lively discussions, all the latest news plus lots of special offers and exclusive discounts for our online shop!



LINKYS WE LIKE

We all love to share a good weblink, but there are simply so many out there. In Linkys we hope to cut through the dross and bring you some that we have come across and enjoyed. If you have found a cracking tattoo-related website, why not send it in? E-mail to editor@totaltattoo.co.uk and put Linkys as your subject line.

BRISTOL TATTOO CLUB

www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMETSUqSqbw

TATTOO DOCUMENTARY

www.nzonscreen.com/title/signatures-of-the-soul-tattooing-today-1984

HORIYOSHI III

www.nowness.com/day/2010/7/13/767/skin-deep-horiyoshi-iii

AMAZING BRUSH STROKE DRAGON

www.youtube.com/watch?v=-w0Vzp0jgWY

LOOK MA, NO MACHINE

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/bearandyeti/4027491253/>

ZOMBIE BOY

www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mlBKifOOQQ



CORRECTION CORNER

Oops! One of the supplied images used in the Juliet Preston feature in issue 92 was actually done by Justin Burnout at The Ghost House Collective.



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King of Kings

The logo for King of Kings Tattoo features a large, detailed illustration of an eagle with its wings spread wide, showing red and black feathers. Below the eagle is a banner with the word "TATTOO" in a bold, outlined font. The entire logo is set against a yellow background with a decorative border. The text "King of Kings" is written in a white, serif font at the top.

Middelhoven 15a 6071 PE Swalmen (NL)
tel: +31(0)475 502646 www.kingofkingstattoo.nl

URBAN TATTOO

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The logo for Urban Tattoo London features a vibrant blue background with a stylized sunburst pattern. In the center, there is a silhouette of the London skyline, including the London Eye and the Tower Bridge. The text "URBAN TATTOO" is written in large, bold, red letters at the top, with "OVER 20 YEARS OF AMAZING INK & BODY PIERCING" in smaller red letters below it. At the bottom, there is contact information: "Tel 020 88 8037 85", "24 White Hart Lane", "Tottenham, London N17 8PP", and the website "www.urbantattoolondon.com".

Quality Work Quality Prices
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Tottenham, London N17 8PP

BUSINESS FOR SALE

A photograph showing the interior of a tattoo parlour. The walls are covered in numerous framed tattoo designs. In the foreground, there is a large, ornate sofa and a wooden cabinet. The overall atmosphere is artistic and well-decorated.

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CALENDAR



UK CONVENTIONS

June 9 – 10 **MK Tattoo Convention**

Kents Hill Park, Milton Keynes
Website: www.mktattooconvention.com

June 9 – 10 **Reading Tattoo Show**

Rivermead Leisure Complex, Reading, Berkshire
Website: www.readingtattooshow.co.uk
Tel: 01189590700
Email: readingtattooshow@hotmail.co.uk

June 23 – 24 **Ink for Heroes**

York Racecourse, York
Website: www.inkforheroes.co.uk
Email: inkforheroes@hotmail.co.uk

June 29 – July 2 **Inkfest – A Festival of Tattoo Art & Alternative Music**

Woolacombe Bay Holiday Park,
Woolacombe, Devon
Website: www.inkfest.co.uk

July 7 – 8 **Dare Valley Ink 'n' Iron**

Michael Sobell Sports Centre, Aberdare, South Wales
Website: www.darevalleyinkiron.co.uk

July 7 – 8 **Bolton Tattoo Bazaar**

Reebok Stadium, Bolton, Lancashire
Website: www.bolontattoobazaar.com

July 21 – 22 **State of the Art Tattoo, Burlesque & Alternative Lifestyle Festival**

The Assembly Rooms, Derby
Website: www.tattoo-2001.com

July 28 – 29 **Portsmouth Tattoo Convention**

Portsmouth Guildhall, Portsmouth
Website: www.portsmouthtattooconvention.com

August 4 – 5 **Manchester International Tattoo Show**

Manchester Central Convention Complex, Manchester
Website: www.manchestertattooshow.com

August 12 **Somerset Tat2 Convention**

Bridgwater Sports & Social Club,
Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 4PA
Info: 01278 439569

August 18 – 19 **Norwich Body Art Festival**

St Andrews Hall, Norwich, Norfolk
Website: www.norwichbodyartfestival.co.uk

August 24 – 26 **Maiden City Ink Tattoo Convention**

St Columbs Hall, Orchard Street, Derry
City, Northern Ireland
Info: Zac at Skin Art Tattoo, 02871 363076
Email: maidencityink@aol.com

September 28 – 30 **London Tattoo Convention**

Tobacco Dock, Porters Walk, London, E1W
2SF
Website: www.thelondontattooconvention.com

October 7 **The Female Tattoo Show**

The Assembly, Leamington Spa,
Warwickshire
Website: www.femaletattooshow.co.uk

October 12 – 14 **Tattoo Jam**

Doncaster Racecourse, Doncaster, South
Yorkshire
Website: www.tattoojam.com

October 27 – 28 **Halloween Tattoo Bash**

The Coal Exchange, Cardiff
Website: www.facebook.com/halloweentattoobash

November 17 – 18 **East Coast Tattoo Expo**

Highfields Holiday Park
Clacton
Essex
Website: www.eastcoastexpo.co.uk
Email: redsonya6@mac.com

November 23 – 26 **Tattoo Camp CANCELLED**

Pontins Holiday Camp, Prestatyn, North
Wales
Website: www.tattooweekender.com

2013

February 16 – 17 **Brighton Tattoo Convention**

The Hilton Metropole Hotel, Brighton, East
Sussex
Info: www.brightontattoo.com

OVERSEAS CONVENTIONS

June 1 – 3 **Amsterdam Tattoo Convention**

RAI Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Website: www.tattooexpo.eu

June 2 – 3 **Krakow TattooFest**

Klimeckiego 14, Krakow, Poland
Website: www.tattoofest.pl

June 2 – 3 **Spring Tattoo Show**

Charleroi Expo, Charleroi, Belgium
Website: www.springtattooshow.be

June 15 – 17 **Valencia Tattoo Convention**

Expo Hotel, Valencia, Spain
Website: www.valenciatattooconvention.com

June 15 – 17 **Northern Ink Xposure Tattoo Convention**

Hilton Hotel, Toronto, Canada
Website: www.tattoos.com/nix

June 22 – 24 **Transilvania Tattoo Expo**

Sibiu, Romania
Website: www.tattooexpo.ro

June 22 – 24 **Tattoolapalooza**

Hyatt Regency, Miami, Florida, USA
Website: www.tattoolapalooza.com

July 27 – 29 **New York Tattoo Show**

Nassau Coliseum, Uniondale, New York,
USA
Website: www.nyattooshow.com

August 3 – 5 **Starfire Tattoo Weekend**

Polysdorf, Austria
Website: www.starfire-tattoo.com



CALENDAR



**August 31 – September 3
Boston Tattoo Convention**
Boston Back Bay Sheraton Hotel, Boston, MA, USA
Website: www.bostontattooconvention.com

**August 31 – September 2
Suri Ink**
Lothlaan, Wicherstraat 27, Paramaribo, Suriname
Website: www.facebook.com/suri-ink

**September 7 – 9
Castellon Tattoo Convention**
Recinto Pergola, Pseo Ribalta, Spain
Website: www.castellontattooconvention.com

**September 13 – 16
Paradise Tattoo Gathering**
Keystone Resort, Keystone, CO 80435, USA
Website: www.tattoogathering.com
Email: gabe@tattoonow.com

**September 14 – 16
Assen Tattoo Expo**
De Bonte Wever, Assen, Netherlands
Website: www.tattooexpo.eu

**October 5 – 7
India Tattoo Convention**
Rajhans Convention Centre, Surajkund, Faridabad, India
Website: www.indiatattooconvention.com

**October 6 – 7
St Gallen International Tattoo Convention**
Fürstenlandsaal, 9200 Gossau, Switzerland
Website: www.tattoo-convention-sg.ch

**October 19 – 21
Evian Tattoo Show**
Palais Festivites, Evian, France
Website: www.eviantattoo.com

**November 23 – 25
Brussels Tattoo Convention**
Tours & Taxis, Brussels, Belgium
Website: www.brusselstattooonvention.be

**November 24 – 25
New Zealand Tattoo & Art Festival**
New Plymouth, New Zealand
Website: www.nztattooart.com

Tattoo convention listings on this page are free. Send your details to Convention Calendar, Total Tattoo Magazine, PO Box 10038, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 7WL, UK or e-mail editor@totaltattoo.co.uk
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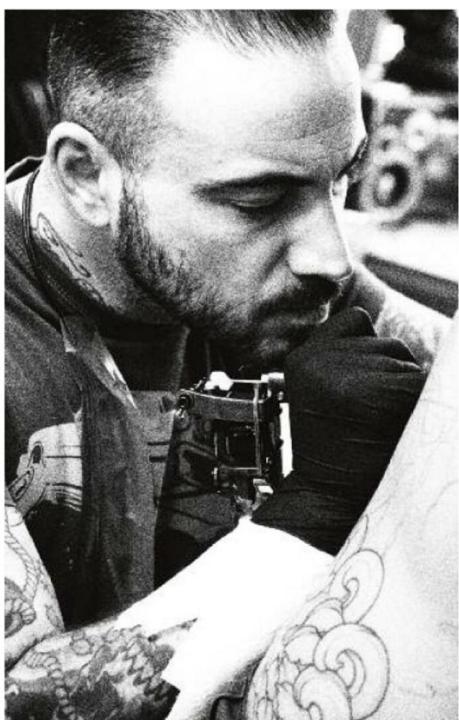
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Pino Cafaro Elektrik Revolver



Very few non-Japanese artists can claim real in-depth knowledge of traditional Japanese tattooing. The subject is simply too immense and too complex. The available literature is mostly in Japanese and there is a mountain range of misleading information and a cloud of myths surrounding this most ancient of artforms. But Italian-born Pino Cafaro of Elektrik Revolver in Braunschweig, Germany, can rightly be called an expert.

Pino's work is not only technically solid and elegantly laid out; his choice of colours, his immaculate linework and the strategic placement of his tattoos on the body are all just *right* too. What really sets him apart, though, is his vast repertoire of imagery from Japanese history and mythology – an immense mental archive extending far beyond even that of many of his Japanese colleagues. Instead of repeating the same variations of koi and dragons, Pino can choose designs from an enormous number of classical legends and ghost stories. How much more interesting it must be for his clients to receive, say, a *kappa*, *kirin* or *kitsune* – rather than having to 'make do' with more cherry blossoms and carp!

Mastering this extensive range of themes and designs – and building a familiarity with the stories and images – has taken years of study. Pino regularly travels to Japan and works in some of the most renowned studios specialising in modern interpretations of traditional designs. He sometimes guests with Gotch and Gakkin of Harizanmai in Kyoto and hand tattooist Magoshi, another good friend, frequently visits his shop in Germany to demonstrate *tebori* style.

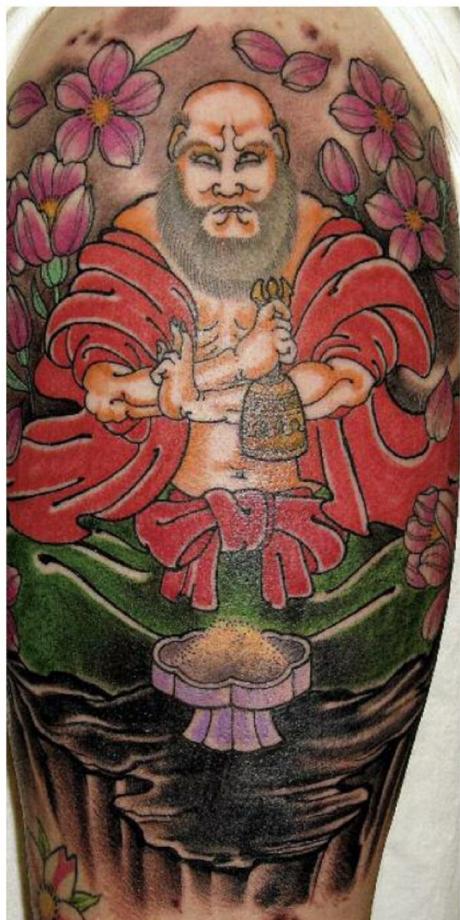






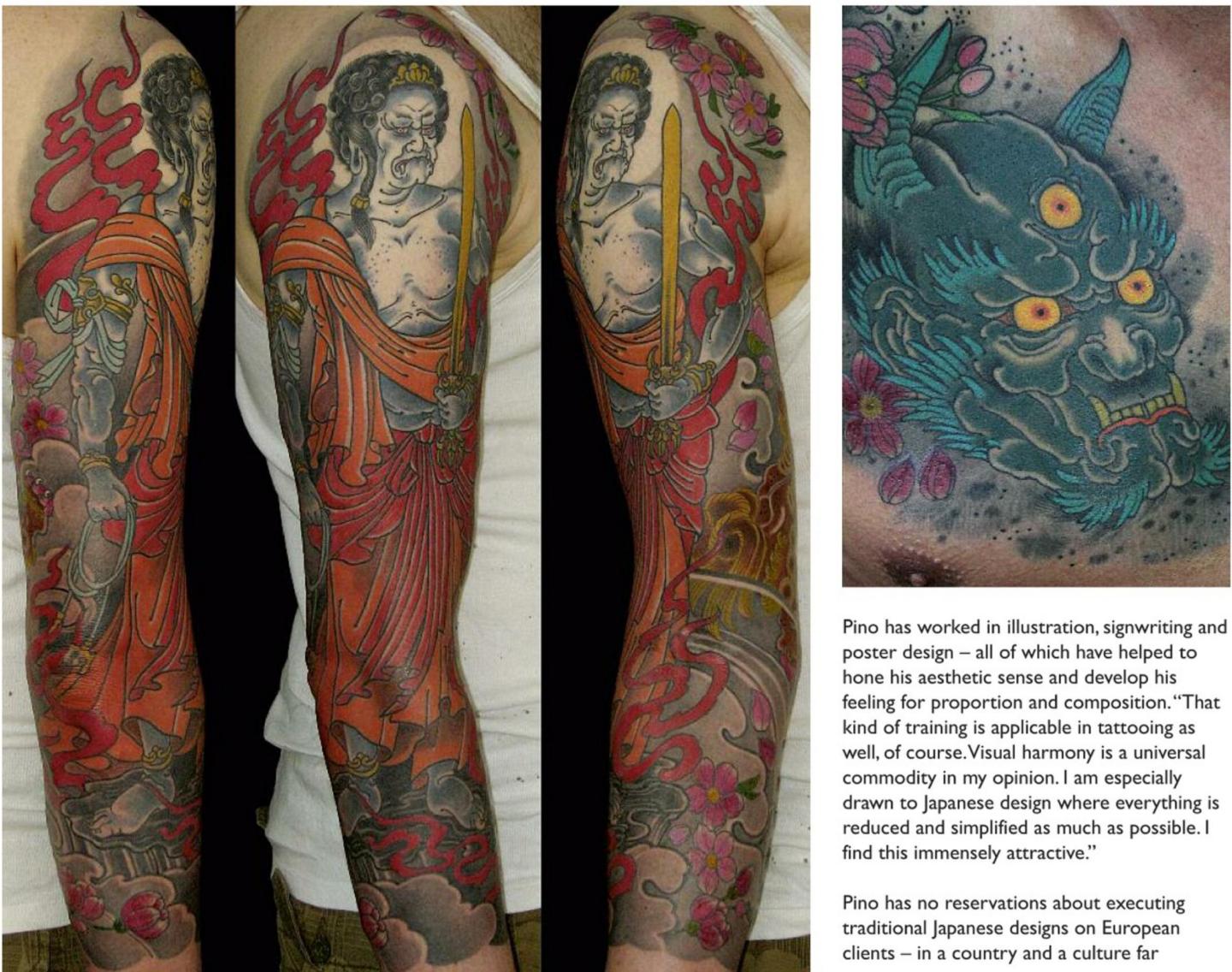
Pino's fascination with all things Japanese goes back to his childhood and his tattooing career spans more than a decade. However, he is adamant that it is only recently that he has become competent in doing 'real' Japanese tattoos. "Of course I tried to do Japanese work right from the beginning, but I think it's only really in the last three years that I've managed to capture the natural flow of these designs. Before that, I would be gathering all the information I could, buying and reading all the books, asking endless questions: 'What is that?' 'Why is that?' 'How do you do that?' There is so much incorrect information around, and it's all dangerously full of gaps. Once you've got the answer to one question, another ten come up!"

The odds were stacked against him, but Pino never really wanted to do anything other than Japanese tattooing. As with so many other artists, his obsession began with the 1980s television series 'Shogun', which opened the door to this fascinating hidden empire. A stream of Samurai and Yakuza movies added to the experience, with full body tattoos appearing on screen for the first time. The concept of these hand-tailored suits, etched into the skin, fascinated him. "You stop seeing individual tattoos, and you start seeing the overall pattern, a little like stitching", he explains.



Pino moved to Germany from Italy when he was a child. His family lived in a rather dodgy neighbourhood in Naples. "We literally ran away from the Mafia," he explains. "In 1980 a shop in our building was fire-bombed, so my dad decided it was time to leave. He took us kids to Germany, where we had relatives. That saved me. If I'd stayed I would have become a criminal, I'm sure of it", he says with a smile. "And, as an Italian, I was supposed to integrate myself into German society by opening a pizza restaurant or ice cream parlour, right?" he adds with a wink.





Pino has worked in illustration, signwriting and poster design – all of which have helped to hone his aesthetic sense and develop his feeling for proportion and composition. "That kind of training is applicable in tattooing as well, of course. Visual harmony is a universal commodity in my opinion. I am especially drawn to Japanese design where everything is reduced and simplified as much as possible. I find this immensely attractive."

Pino has no reservations about executing traditional Japanese designs on European clients – in a country and a culture far





removed from the origins of those designs. And though he feels it is crucially important to know the background story of each design, he does not always insist on adhering to every last detail. He values the fact that his clients are educated and happy to learn and, in return, he does everything he can to make them feel appreciated and helped. "We have an excellent clientele here, interested in the meaning and the history of the tattoos, and not just acquiring them to fill up skin space. Usually, we go through my books together and ideas readily emerge; it soon becomes apparent what the client is really looking for. Sometimes I prepare a folder of information about our shortlisted designs so they can make their choice. Then we go into the details of the actual tattoo."

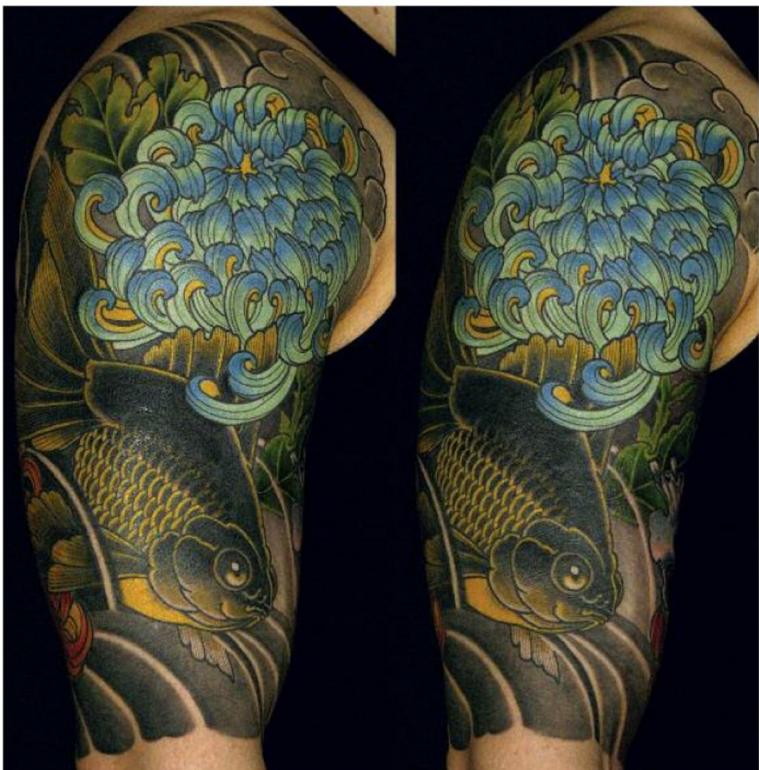
When he attends conventions – and they're always top class events such as London, Milan, Brighton, Ink Explosion and Copenhagen – Pino prefers to work in a slightly different way. "At a convention, I don't want the sweat of doing a half-sleeve. I would rather bring with me a good selection of smaller designs – about the size of a hand. Japanese designs are perfect for that: an *oni*, a *hannya* or a *daruma* can be done in a few hours max. They look good as an individual tattoo, but they can also easily be integrated into a larger design later on."

In Germany, a country that has one of the world's biggest tattoo 'audiences' and a vast pool of up-and-coming talent, Pino Cafaro has – somewhat reluctantly – acquired the status of a role model. He doesn't see himself that way though. "I just want to feel happier with my work, you know. There is still quite a lot of room for improvement. But I don't want to focus on a particular goal – because if you do that, there is the possibility that you will get to



the point where you feel you are close to achieving that goal, then journey's end is in sight, right? I just want to let my work get even more traditional, even more Japanese, more flat, away from the new school influence... But who knows what will happen in another 15 years time? It might all change!"

Pino Cafaro
Elektrik Revolver
Altewiekring 19c
38102 Braunschweig
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James Robinson



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James Robinson

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The shop and studio has a distinct look, which reflects James' personal style and features stunning antique furniture, religious iconography and a giant taxidermy peacock called George!

Hope to see you all soon

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the 2nd scottish tattoo convention

Report by James • Photos by James and Perry



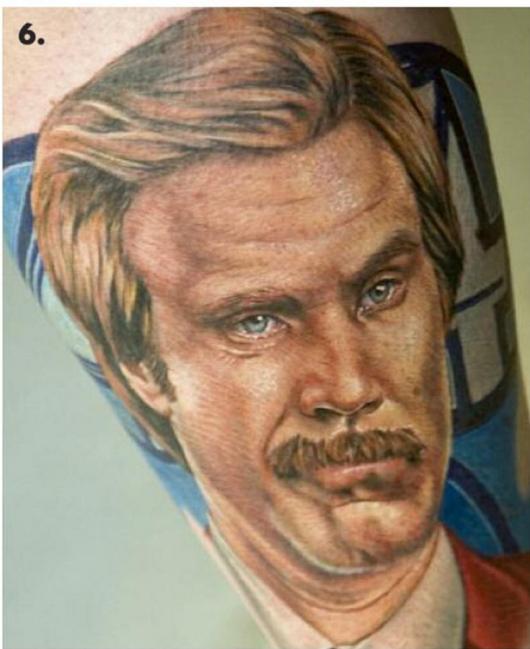
1. the venue
2. edinburgh castle
3. brad fink, working
4. alan by prizeman, eternal art
5. gav by roddy mclean, timeless tattoo
6. james by cecil porter, cecil porter studios (usa)
7. steven by soap, lab monkey

Being the editor of Total Tattoo is exciting and glamorous. It's a lifestyle full of intrigue and luxury, travelling the globe and staying in the finest hotels, dining in Michelin starred restaurants and generally leading the five-star life of an international man of mystery.

Well, at least that was the illusion I was trying to perpetuate when my alarm went off at 4am (by some cruel twist of fate the only flight I could get to Edinburgh for the Scottish Convention was at stupid o'clock in the morning) and I blearily threw my legs over the side of the bed, my feet hitting the cold floor with a dull thump. So I bid farewell to a slumbering household and began my trip to that most beautiful city which had already won my heart last year, and to a convention that was full of enough promise to get me up and moving when I should have been in bed dreaming of playing blackjack in Monte Carlo.

2012 is the second year for the Scottish Tattoo Convention and this show has now really hit the mark. Don't get me wrong: last year's was a great show with great artists too, but this year's list was very impressive indeed. Artists like Brad Fink, Cecil Porter, Jeremy Justice, Jim Miner, Robert Hernandez and Adriaan Machete were but a few of the overseas visitors who made the show so special. As you would hope and expect the Scottish studios were there in force: Custom Inc, Red Hot and Blue, Tribe Tattoo, Lab Monkey and many more. There was some massive talent coming from across the border as well: Immortal Ink, Spear, The Family Business... the list goes on. Everybody played their part – collectors included of course – in making the Scottish show a fun event to be part of and genuinely deserving of a national title.

Once again it was held in the Corn Exchange, just a short cab ride from the historic city centre. Last year all of the artists were housed in the one main hall which worked just fine that time around, but with the swelling of numbers for the 2012 show an additional hall had been commandeered to house the overflow. With the bar conveniently placed in between the two, you could take your pick! There was an outside seating area as well – which did see some use when the sun shone – and if you fancied a triple heart bypass there were burgers aplenty to grease your chin with. There was ample space in which to hang out, lots of stuff to eat, and no





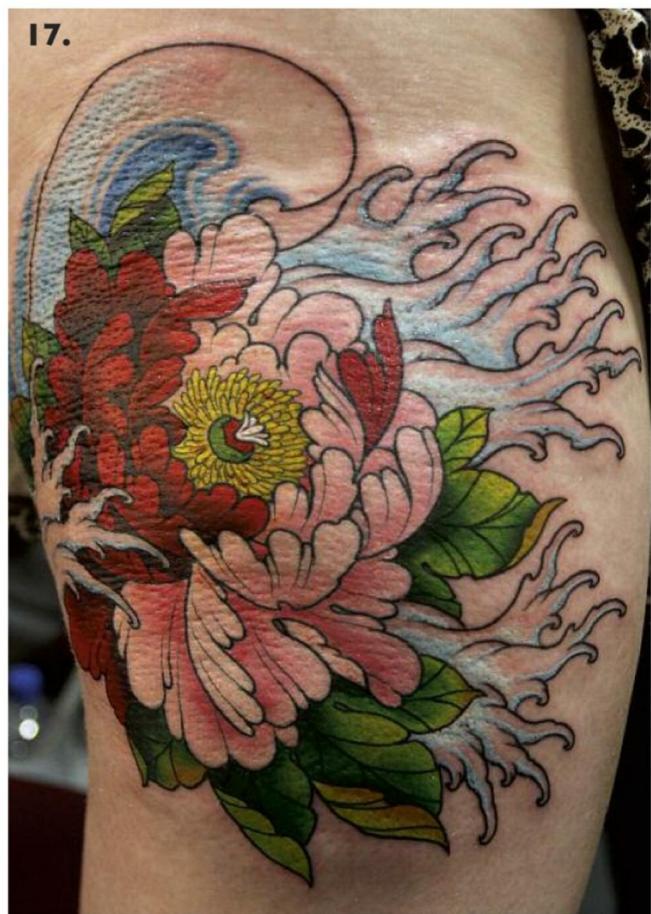
bottlenecks in the physical layout – all of which made for plain sailing around the show.

The entertainment this year was nicely mixed up. There was a little bit of burlesque, a few bands, and a rather good Elvis impersonator, and then Sunday saw the Fuel Girls take to the stage – eating fire, throwing flames and generally getting about as intimate with the hot stuff as you would want to get. I heard one guy telling his mate that when he died he would like to come back as one of their torches. Which just goes to show that even when talking about the weighty subject of reincarnation there is room for some quality shallowness. Oh, and Mr Cecil Porter went down on one knee and popped the question to his lady love who of course said yes, and tears were shed.



8. stuart by paul slifer, red hot and blue
9. mark by krzysztof domanowski, plus 48 tattoo
10. matt by joe frost, thou art
11. pavel by marcin, inkdependent tattoo
12. by danielle rose, inkredible kreations
13. melissa by adriaan machete machete tattoos
14. simone by el bara, true love tattoo (spain)
15. patrick by clarissa gregson, jolie rouge tattoo





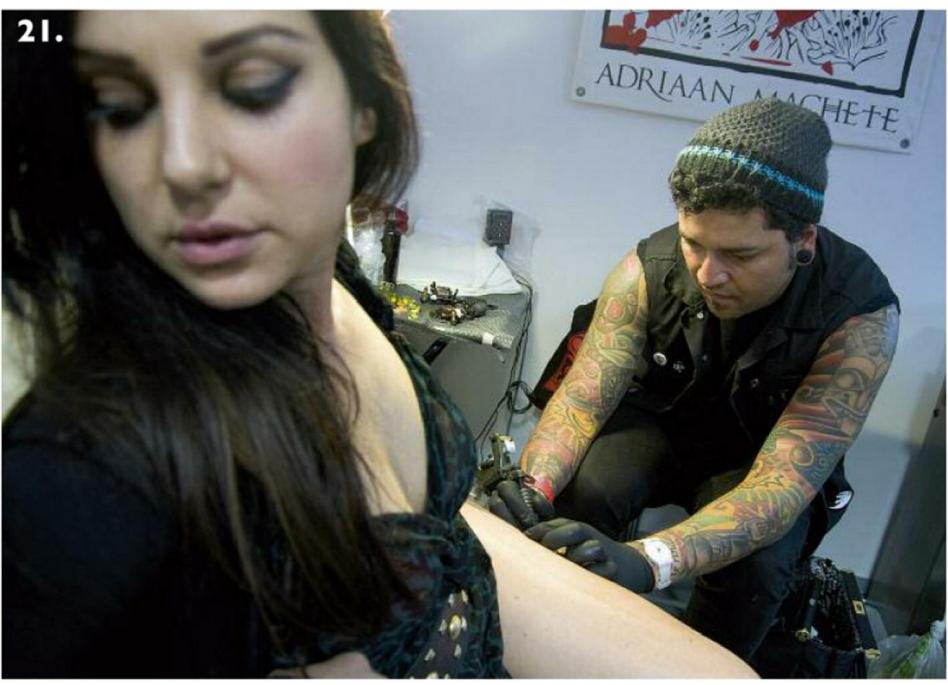
If I had to sum up the weekend in one sentence, it would be this: The Scottish Tattoo Convention is all it needs to be. For me, it really worked. Not too much of any one thing, with the spotlight well and truly aimed at tattooing. Is there any room for improvement? Probably – let's face it there almost always is – and I'm sure the organisers will be putting their heads together for next year, but in my opinion it's only in need of maybe a bit of a eyebrow pluck at the most – not a full-on facial peel! Roll on 2013, and I might have forgotten about my rude awakening by then.

- 16. gemma by xed le head, divine canvas**
- 17. kirsty by jeremy justice, apocalypse tattoo (usa)**
- 18. union avenue**
- 19. sketches by gunnar foley, immortal ink**
- 20. by dan williams, black lantern**
- 21. adriaan machete working**
- 22. conner by jeff kohl, studio 13**
- 23. lindsay by saira, good times tattoo**

20.



21.

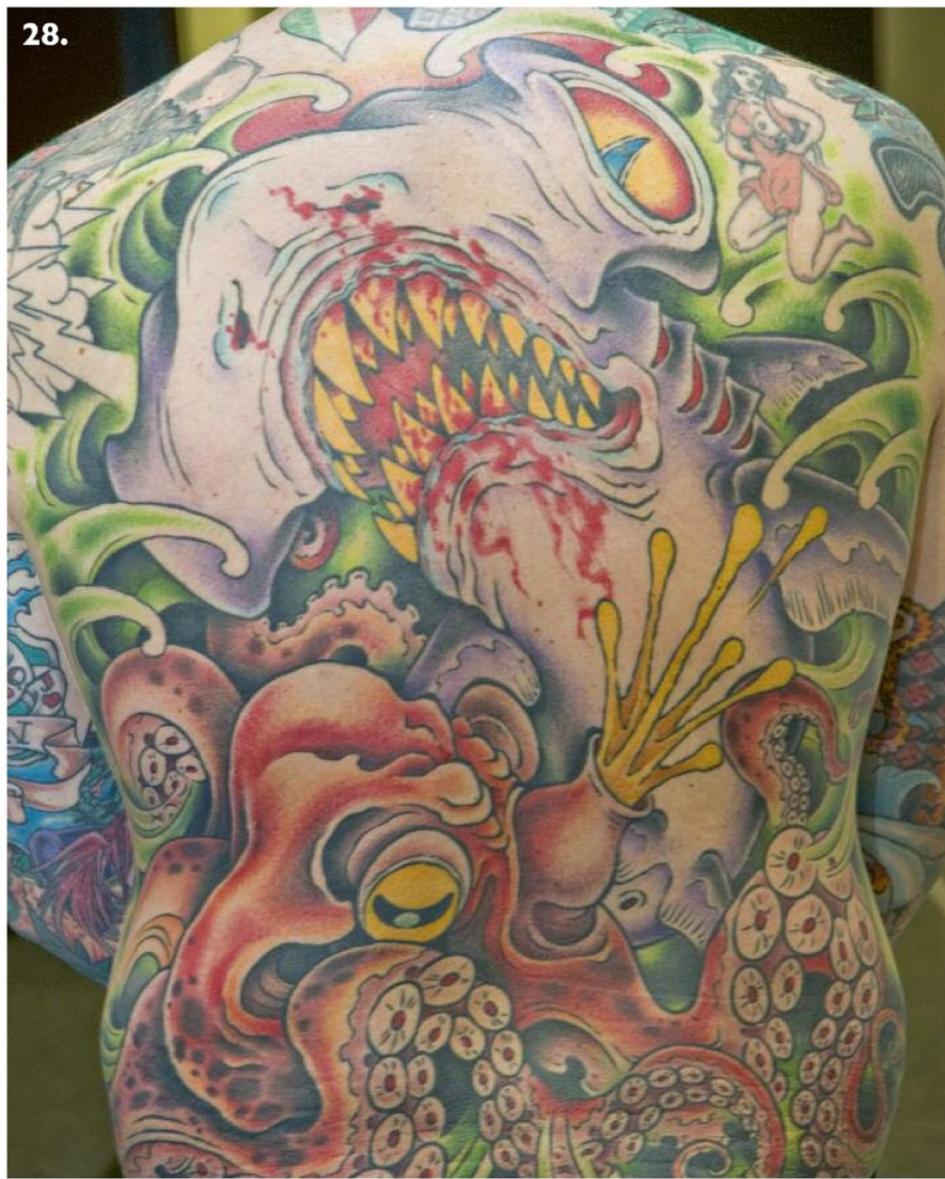


22.



23.





24. beatrice by alex mad crow,
porky royal (sweden)
25. by marcus maguire, custom inc
26. linley by chris meighan, studio 52
27. by lianne moule, immortal ink

28. gary by sabado,
electric super tattoo (japan)
29. lee by eva mpatshi, beautiful freak
(belgium)

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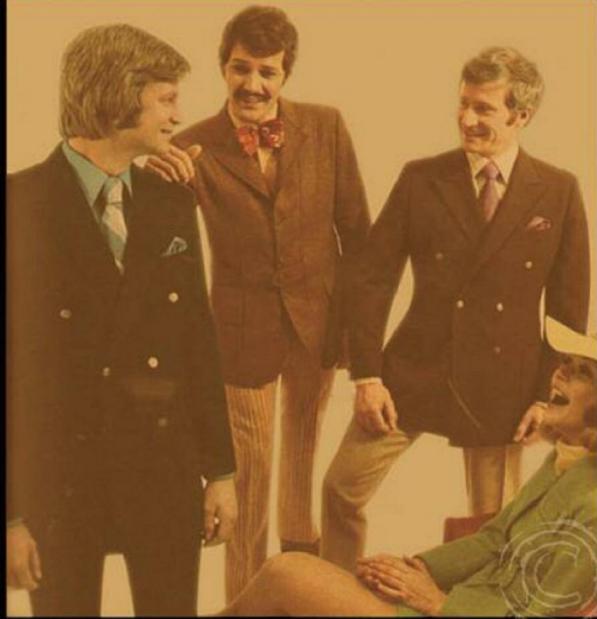
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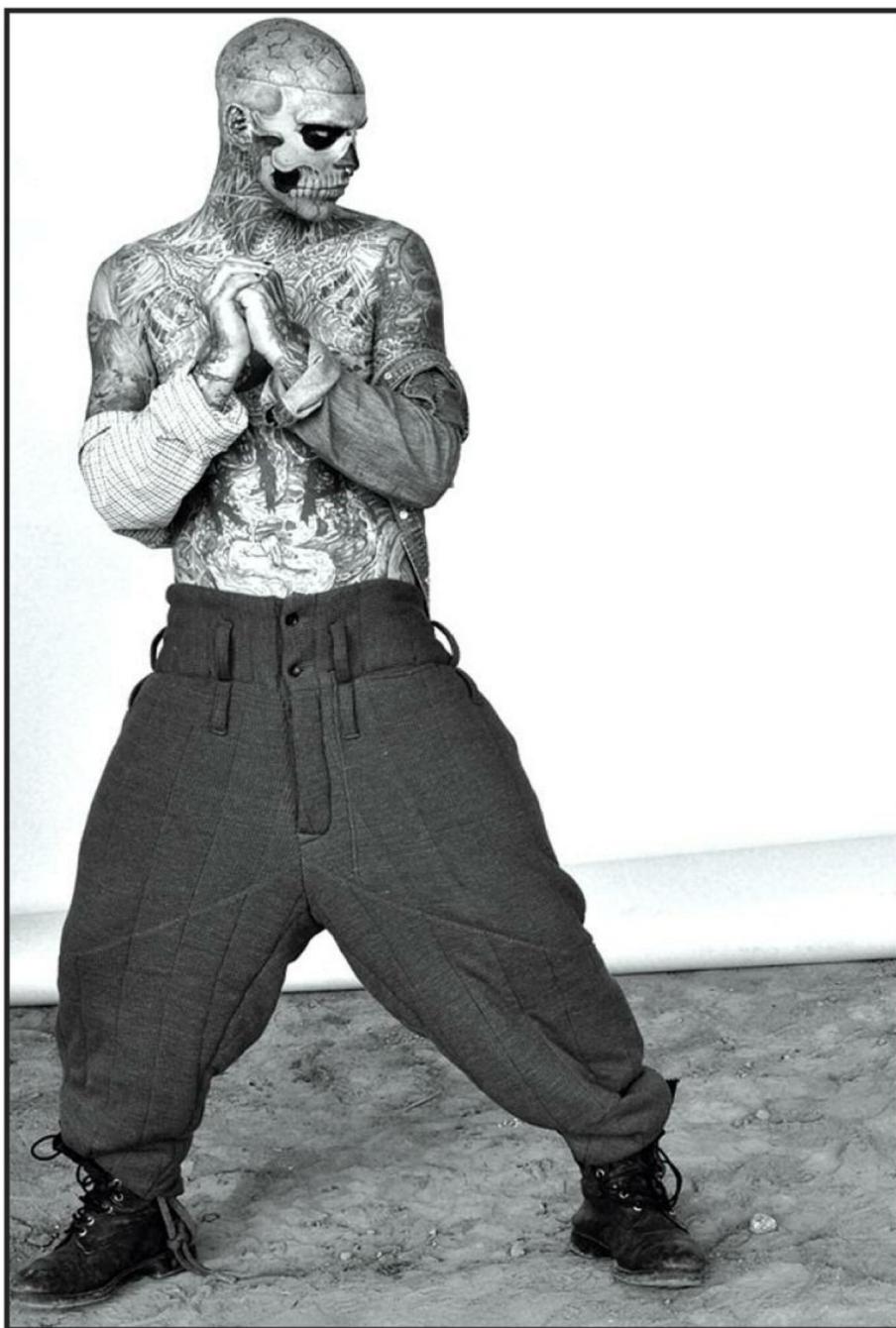
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soap - www.myspace.com/soapttc

paul - www.myspace.com/lifetime

Zombie Boy – aka Rick Genest – is one of the hottest items on the media agenda right now. Once a punk rock street kid, this down-to-earth 26-year-old from Montreal has suddenly morphed into a fashion icon, his mysteriously handsome image appearing on screens and in magazines all over the world. We just had to chat to him...



Rick, you've worked in circus sideshows and you're also going to be performing at tattoo conventions in the near future. Did you acquire your tattoos with public appearances like these in mind?

I've worked in sideshows for the past four years. I've always liked them, but the tattoos came first. I got my first one when I was 16. The punk rock lifestyle, tattoos, piercings... this is where I come from.

How did you come to invent the Zombie Boy character?

As a teenager, I did my growing up on the streets and my nickname was Zombie. Also, I had a brain tumour and I had to undergo some pretty radical surgery. Those experiences, along with my particular taste in music... and the people I knew... well the nickname just stuck. And with the first photos in magazines, suddenly the name Zombie Boy came up – and that was it.

But why such an extreme metamorphosis?

It actually wasn't so extreme at first. It was more gradual. You start small and then it spreads... It happened in a kind of natural way, parallel to my life's experiences. The point of no return was getting my hands done. That was long before my face.

Were you inspired by philosophy or religion or images from literature? (Kafka's 'Metamorphosis' perhaps?)

There's definitely some philosophy behind it, but you've got to remember I was just 16 when I started – and I didn't know anything about that stuff. I've just always liked this kind of thing.

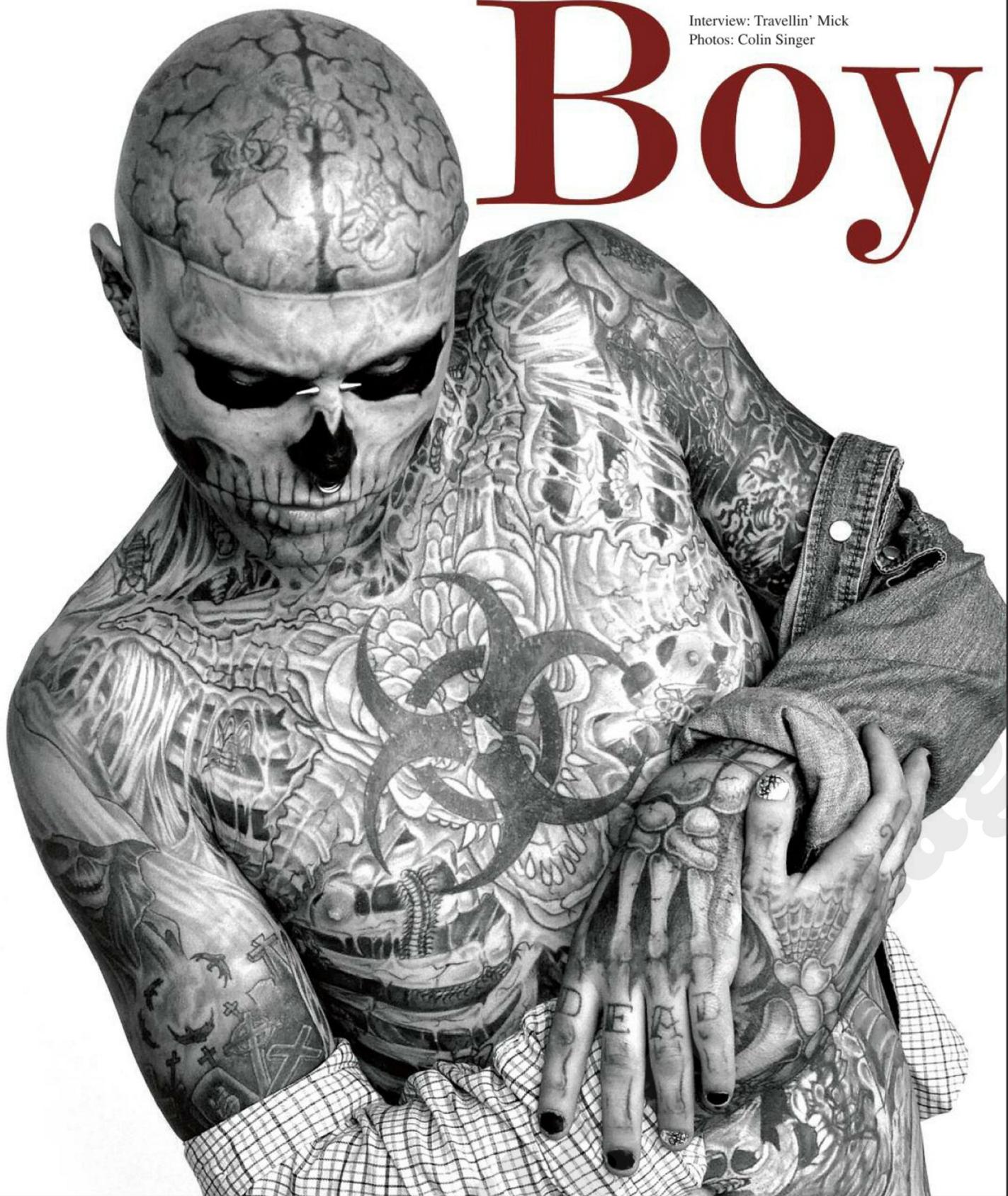
The skull image is done really well with astounding effect. Do you feel as though you are wearing a mask that prevents people seeing the real you?

No – that's you making up theories about me. I am just me.

Close to the bone

Zombie Boy

Interview: Travellin' Mick
Photos: Colin Singer





Did it take much convincing to find an artist to do this? The responsibility for changing someone's life in such a radical way... surely that would make it difficult for many tattooists to go through with such a project?

I had thought – and talked – about getting my face done for years. It did take a while – like, if you buy a car, you take some time to do the research before you buy the thing. When I first walked into Frank Lewis's shop in Montreal, he said no. He saw the line that I was going to cross and he didn't want to take the responsibility for me being a screw-up. But when I went back the next time I already had something tattooed on my face. This changed his mind.

Did you do any kind of trial run – like walking around with your face painted to see what it would feel like?

Frank drew it on many times, adjusting it until it fitted my face perfectly. We'd looked at lots of skull designs and studied the anatomical details. I knew what I was getting into. I didn't need a trial run and I wasn't going to walk around town with paint on my face! I was convinced I would want it. I'd already had most of my body done – bugs up my neck, a spider's web in my ear... It wasn't such a big step really. And if you're asking how long it all took... I didn't count the hours.

How did your daily life change after your transformation?

Actually I've got this make-up stuff at home and I can cover the tattoos any time I want. No, just joking. Seriously, I don't think people who are close to me notice the tattoos any more. But it's a long process going through airports – though my passport photo does have the skull on. It would be pushing it if it didn't.

Do you think you will want to change your appearance again in the future?

To be another character – The Swamp Thing perhaps? Would I have to change my name too? Or can I keep it? No, I'll probably get hit by a car before that happens.

You seem to be going for total exposure right now, with lots of different projects. You modelled for Thierry Mugler and L'Oréal, you appeared in Lady Gaga's latest video and you've starred in movies. Is this the modern day equivalent of the old-fashioned circus sideshow lifestyle? Coney Island on a sunny Sunday afternoon?

I've never been to Coney Island – but yes, it's more or less the same thing I guess. As the "tattooed guy", your job is to stand out there in front of the crowd. Being on TV and in videos and in fashion shows is the same thing as being in the circus – except that a lot more people can see you! I did all this before, standing on the pavement with tourists taking photos of me. It's not so different.

You've got your own sideshow troupe, Lucifer's Blasphemous Mad Macabre Torture Carnival. What are your plans for performing at tattoo conventions?

For tattoo conventions, I still have to work out the sideshow stuff. There are some kinks and technical hitches to iron out. For instance, one of my sideshow characters only eats bugs and organs – but you can't do that on stage. There are laws against it apparently! And I've got to learn how to manipulate fire better. It's got to be perfect. I've been to a few North American conventions – as a visitor and also as a performer. I don't know if European ones will feel any different. We'll see.

And finally – looking into the future, can you envisage Zombie Boy sitting in a rocking chair on the front porch, watching his grandchildren?

Not so sure about the grandchildren... but, hey, maybe I'll grow a beard...

www.rickgenest.com

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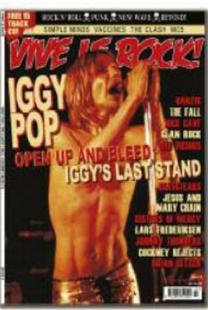
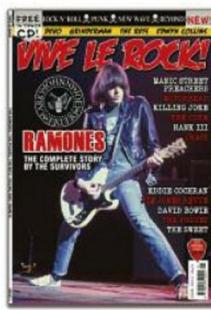
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Who really wants an inferior copy of someone else's tattoo?

Mel looks at the thorny issue of design theft



In fact my buddy Ian Parkin sparked off the idea for this month's column in a conversation we had about how many people are stealing roses from Chris Dettmer. At first, I was going to get angry and point out how stupid and pathetic this is, but since it's all been said before by others, I will just embarrass the idiots and make the thieves look stupid by telling you about some amazing tattooers who do the exact opposite of what these guys are doing.

People often ask me what I think makes a good tattooer. Of course the artist's technical ability, studio cleanliness and overall manner come into play; that's all just obvious. However, I think that the tattooers who are a cut above the rest are the ones who have completely distinguishable work. This is a personal opinion, but then this *is* an opinion column! The best work is the stuff that makes you think, "Wow, where the hell did they get *that* idea from?" or "What is it that made them tattoo in this cool way?" When you take a moment to consider tattooing as a whole, there are some really incredible tattooers out there who have their own style and as a consequence really take pride in their work. These are the artists I get excited about.

Let's take a look at a few of them, so that you can see what I'm talking about. Electric Pick, for instance. Strange futuristic ladies, cartoon-style superheroes and explosions of blues, pinks and oranges burst out of his portfolio. It's stuff that you think you've seen before, but you've never seen it like this. It almost assaults you. That is really cool, and it's something that is completely original. Jesse Smith also has his own thing going on. His pieces have many colours in them, but sometimes these colours

If you ask any tattoo artist what is the worst thing about tattooing right now, I have a feeling a lot of them will talk to you about the terrible tattooers who rip off their work. And for some reason this problem is actually getting worse at the moment. Artists often tell me about how sick they are about not being able to show their work without wondering who will steal it, sometimes line for line, and claim it as their own.

are quite muted. The subjects in his tattoos are mainly animals and distorted, sometimes violent, characters. Both these tattooers do extraordinary, fun, cartoon-style stuff, but they do it in their own utterly unique way.

Now take a look at Cris Cleen and you will see another exceptional portfolio. It's full of wonderful turn-of-the-century types of images, with a colour palette consisting mostly of blacks, greys and reds. It's traditional tattooing, but it's Cris's own way of interpreting it. And Uncle Allan's approach is different again, with lots of Black Metal influences and theatrical animals. All very dark, but still typically traditional. Inventive, but showing that you don't have to re-invent the wheel to do stellar work.

This isn't even a new thing. If you look at old flash sheets from years ago, you will see individual artists' work that is completely recognisable. If you look at some old Bert Grimm flash, you will notice that he had a very distinctive way of drawing skulls which he always stuck to. You know a Bert Grimm skull when you see one. You just *know*. If you look through a lot of Doc Forbes' flash, you will see a billion sacred hearts and the same muted reds and blacks. Granted, these reds and blacks may have been the only colours he had at the time, but sometimes it's the circumstances or the situation that give rise to the originality – and that's fine.

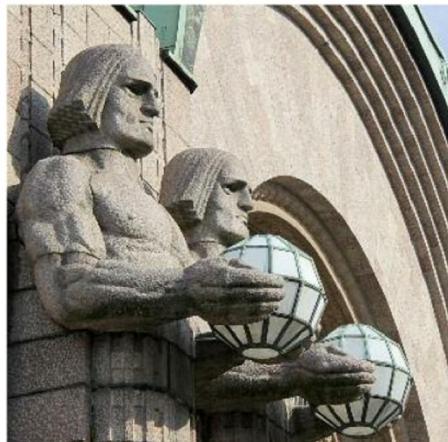
There are loads of tattooers whose work is truly distinctive. If you see a raven by Thomas Hooper, you know who did it without having to ask. If you see a gypsy head by Ian Parkin, you know who did that. If you see a realistic skull by Gary Wiedenhof, you know it's his

creation. If you see a Japanese sleeve by Diego Azaldegui, you know it's his. If you see biomechanical work by Guy Aitchison... Well, you get the idea.

Sadly, every tattoo artist I've mentioned this month has been ripped off at some point. I don't mean in a small-scale way and I'm not simply referring to the fact that people take inspiration from their work. I mean that there are people out there who have taken stuff wholesale, and claimed it as their own, line for goddamn line. There is a big difference between doing this and doing a tattoo that's a little like someone else's then being honest about your influences. Even if you tattoo some old flash that was created by a now-deceased tattooer, at least state that in your portfolio. To be frank, who really wants an inferior copy of someone else's tattoo?

This month, however, let's not be angry. Let's just embarrass the idiots by praising those who are really doing their own thing and really taking pride in their work! Innovative tattooers, you make me smile and you make my job awesome. I salute you all.

Mel Noir writes the news & views blog site
www.tattoosdayuk.com



helsinki ink

Report and photos by Travellin' Mick

There is no doubt about it: Helsinki is the party convention! Some say Finnish people are crazy... but tattooed Finnish people take it one step further! Even with all the partying though, there is still plenty of first class tattooing done at Helsinki Ink, and this is down to organisers Rösti and Tony, who brought together forty of the very best tattoo artists for the 2012 event.

"Hey Theo, isn't Helsinki one of the best conventions around?" I shout across the crowded bar. "Oh yes", Theo Jak, probably one of the most influential tattooists of modern times, barks back at me. "And you know why? This is what conventions used to be like twenty years ago: true tattoo artists meeting true tattoo fans," the American-born Swedish resident adds with a smile, before disappearing.

Theo Jak laid the foundations of modern old school tattooing two decades ago but he is hardly ever seen at tattoo conventions nowadays. He makes a rare exception for Helsinki Ink though, and that says a lot about the show. When I mention our conversation to Rösti later, he replies with typical Finnish humour: "Sure, that's because we are always twenty years behind in Finland!"

Looking around the convention venue – a former cable factory, now converted to a stylish event space – all you see is tattooed skin, and plenty of it. No voyeurs, no square families, no wanna-be

gangsters in Christian Audigier wear who want to 'look at the freaks', no press and TV crews cruising for the next 'big thing'.

The Helsinki convention is open to the public, but in many ways it is a private affair for the tattoo cognoscenti. Tattooists party with their regular customers, chat with friends and do lots of tattoos, while good rock music is played in the bar and alcohol is consumed in copious amounts. The atmosphere is jovial; more like a family reunion than a convention. Aside from the partying, Helsinki Ink is all about the 'Ink'. Quality instead of quantity is the organisers' motto and they stick to it. Rösti and Tony get lots of applications for tattoo booths, but they are quite picky about who works at the show. Artists must not only be top notch, they need the right attitude too. No posers need apply!

4.



5.



1. by alex, duck's tattoo (finland)
2. by veera, takomo tattoo (finland)
3. by ezequiel nunez, magaluf ink (spain)
4. by jee sayalero, human fly tattoo (spain)
5. from left: theo jak, matt knopp, jondix and chad koeplinger

As visitors enter the convention hall, they are met with the first of many highlights: right next to Italian chicano specialist Antonio Todisco, much-travelled old school hero Chad Koeplinger is having a chat with his business partner Matt Knopp of Tattoo Paradise, while tattoo legend Theo Jak is getting his sternum tattooed by the lovely Spaniard Jondix. Maximo Lutz, also from Spain, looks on, while ultra-traditionalist Deno from Madrid tattoos a Finnish guy. The insanely funny design he is doing on his thigh is virtually unpublishable, as it involves depicting sexual practices that are rightfully banned in most countries on this planet!

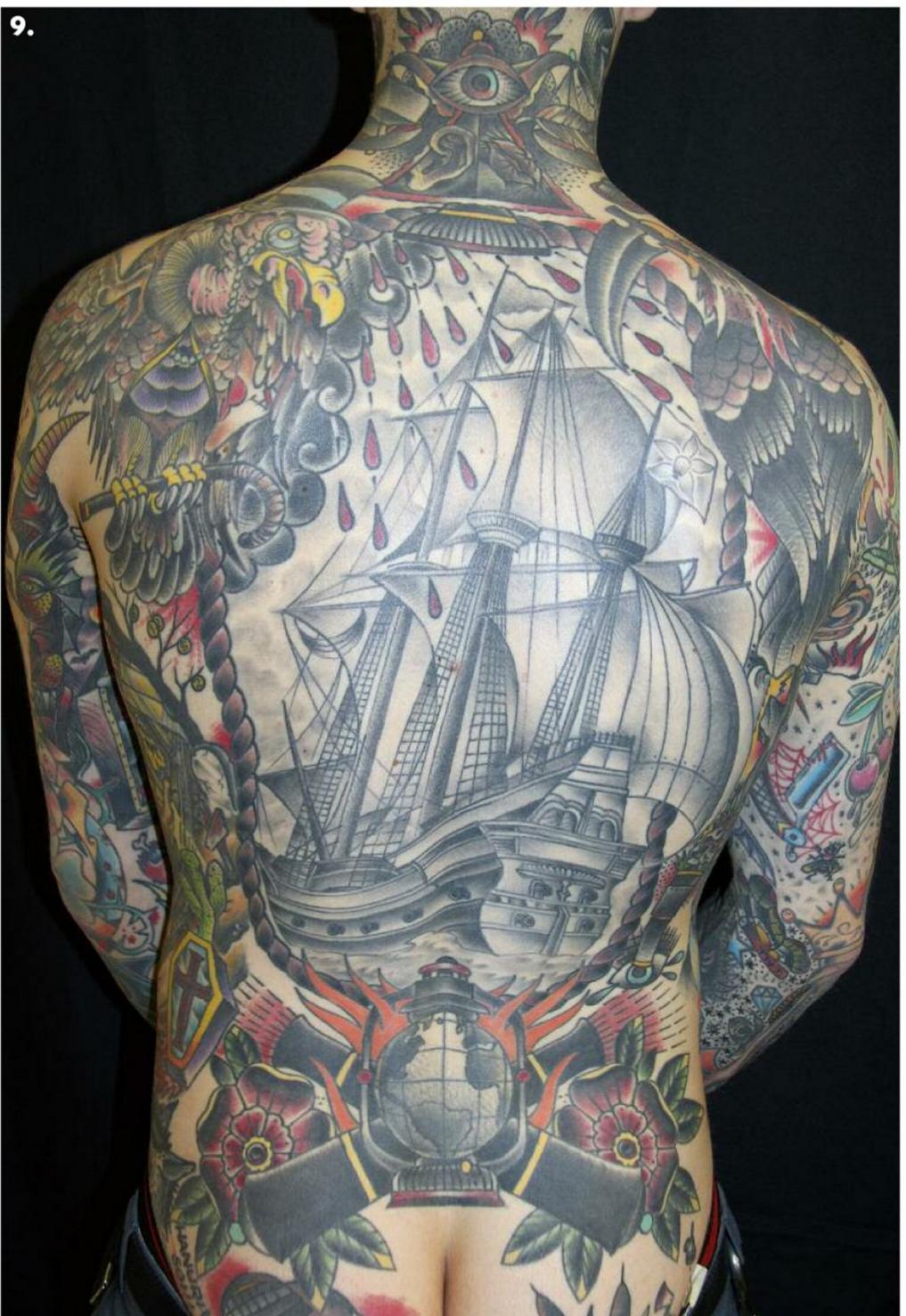
This corner alone could entertain a tattoo fan for days, but there is plenty more to see, such as colour genius Jee Sayalero from Human Fly working alongside his Basque friend Fat. What a pleasure it is to watch these hyper-creative

guys at work. Several Swedish artists have crossed the Baltic Sea to take part in the party, including Johanna from Bluebird, the Stockholm Classic crew (with Max Stahlhammer, Jenny and Tyson), Mikke of House of Pain, and master of the comic book tattoo Jimmylajnen.

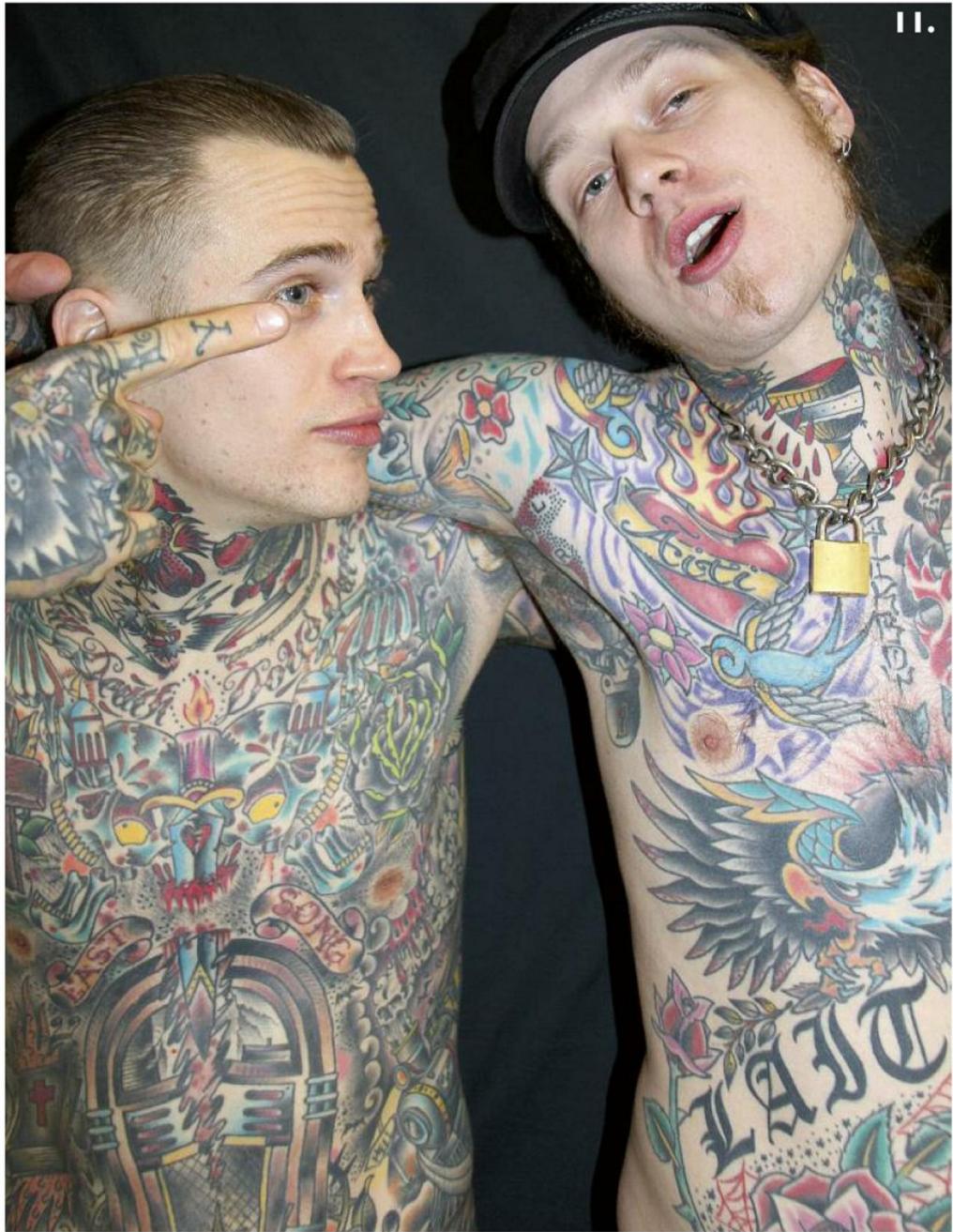
Finland's own tattoo artists have really caught up with the modern tattoo scene in recent years. Whether it is old schoolers like Juha, Timppa, Juho, Jenni of Bound Tattoo, Veera from Takomo or all-rounders like Gustav of Zombie Tattoo and Samuli of Vida Loca, all of them are doing work that holds its own on the international stage. One particular talented Finnish newcomer is JP Wikman of Putka Tattoo, a shy young man who has only been tattooing for about five years but has blossomed into an outstanding and very creative artist. It's hard to believe but he had

never worked at – or even attended – a tattoo convention before this year's Helsinki Ink and yet he walked away with first prize for the Best Tattoo of the Day on Friday! No wonder he had a big smile on his face for the rest of the weekend.

Another artist worth a mention is the young Russian Alex Jazz, who is now working at Duck's Tattoo, one of the longest established studios in Finland. He won a well-deserved trophy for the Best Neo-Classical tattoo, a category that is always hotly contested. Helsinki Ink may not be the biggest convention in the world but it is certainly a top quality event. It reaches back to the roots of what tattoo events used to be like: a meeting point of people dedicated to tattooing and an opportunity to share their common love for indelible skin art.



- 11.
- 6. by poison, french kiss ink (france)
 - 7. by gustav, zombie tattoo (finland)
 - 8. by deno, circus tattoo (spain)
 - 9. by juha lensu, raining blood tattoo (finland)
 - 10. by jenni, bound tattoo (finland)
 - 11. tattoos by various artists
 - 12. by chad koeplinger (on the road)
 - 13. by joni, takomo tattoo (finland)
 - 14. by alex jazz, duck's tattoo (finland)



13.



14.





15. by lasse sjöros, individual ink (finland)
16. by mikko, inksanity (finland)
17. by jimmylajnen, fisheye ink (sweden)
18. by lasse sjöros, individual ink (finland)
19. by samuli, vida loca tattoo (finland)
20. by eric dufour, art cyniq (canada)



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cover model profile

This month's cover features the super-talented Jackie from Nutz Tattoo in Hertfordshire – tattooist, piercer, roller derby champion and much more. With her increasingly hectic lifestyle, now seemed a good time to grab a few minutes and have a chat.

Could you start by telling us a bit about yourself?

I'm 33, and I'm a piercer, tattoo artist and co-owner of Nutz Tattoo in Ware, Hertfordshire. I play roller derby for the London Rockin' Rollers. I love punk rock, motorbikes and classic cars.

How did you get started with tattoos?

I can remember being fascinated by tattoos and body piercing from a very early age. I don't know what first sparked my interest but I remember my aunties getting tattooed and pierced when I was very young and I thought it was so cool! When I was a teenager a lot of my friends were bikers too and I really looked up to them.

Could you tell us about your tattoos and your style in general?

I don't really think I have a style that can be categorised. I'm not one for labels. My tattoo styles vary as widely as my wardrobe. I like to play around with my look. But most importantly I like to feel comfortable.



What was your first tattoo?

My first tattoo was a fairy on my lower back when I was 18. I was an apprentice mechanic at the time and a massive tomboy and I wanted something to reflect

my femininity. I've had that tattoo laser off now as it wasn't done very well. But I loved it at the time. I even went back and had several more tattoos from the same artist shortly afterwards. It wasn't until I was in my twenties that I realised tattoos could be so much better. I still like the fairy theme though, as you can see from my right arm.

And what followed after that?

In about 2000 I met and started working with Nutz. I loved his style of tattooing and he has a great attitude. I started getting tattooed by him. My fairy sleeve was first, followed by some kinky ladies on my lower leg and a floral design on my ribs. In 2005 we opened our own shop together and his work went up a notch. I got the biker pin-up on my right thigh, and my chestpiece, then the pirate pin-up on my left thigh. In between all this I got my fingers tattooed by Strangy – he used to work at our studio. My left sleeve was done by Lianne Moule at Immortal ink. I love her painterly style and I love spending time at their shop. My neck was done by Boff Konkerz. I really like the look of dotwork and I wanted to try having a hand-poked tattoo. I only went for a small design to try it out but I enjoyed the experience and I liked Boff so I ended up getting my entire neckpiece done. I'd definitely like more work done by both Lianne and Boff.

You have amazing tattoos by great British tattooists. Have you had anything done by tattooists outside the UK?

I had a small piece done by Jime Litwalk when I was in Vegas. I was there for a roller derby convention and I wanted something to mark the occasion.

Do you have a favourite tattoo? Or one that is the most meaningful?

It depends what day you ask me! I love all my tattoos and they all have meaning to me. Some I like because they are pretty, some I like because of the meanings behind them – and some are special because they are a little reminder of what I was doing with my life at that particular moment in time.

You are a tattooist yourself, aren't you?...

Yes, Nutz has been teaching me since before we opened our shop together. I would say I'm definitely still in the apprentice stage! You never stop learning, and I still get nervous and excited about doing a tattoo on someone. But Nutz says that feeling never goes away.

You're into roller derby... can you tell us a bit about that?

I play roller derby for the London Rockin' Rollers. I've been with them since 2007. It's an all girl (although there are boys' leagues now too), flat-track, full-contact sport played on



quad roller skates. My league is based in London, although there are many leagues all over the country and indeed the world. I absolutely love it and I'm obsessed. I get to keep fit, travel all over the place – including countries I would never otherwise have seen – and play this amazing sport with loads of bad ass women (and men)!

You're in the England Team aren't you?

Yes, I played for England in the first ever Roller Derby World Cup in December 2011 which was hosted in Toronto. It was an absolute honour to play for my country and, although it was hard work, I loved every second of it. We came third and came home with bronze medals. We were only beaten by Canada and the USA.

How much of your time does roller derby take?

Roller derby takes up so much time. It's a grassroots sport and the leagues are run by the skaters, and it's all self-funded. So not only do we have to show up for training three times a week, we also have to book the hall space, plan the sessions, arrange fundraisers, organise bouts, design and print flyers, buy uniforms, design and update the website, liaise with other leagues, recruit and train new people and pretty much manage the whole thing on a weekly basis. I'm certainly not responsible for all of those tasks but we are a democratic league and everyone has their say and adds their view to how the league is run, so it keeps us all busy. Just about all my spare time is taken up by roller derby or something to do with it!

What's next for you, tattoo-wise?

I really want to get the backs of my thighs tattooed next. Then I might start on a backpiece. I've been saving my back for something special and I think it's overdue.

Which tattooists really inspire you?

Nutz is the main person I look up to. He's my best friend and he's so talented and works so hard. I also really look up to Lianne [Moule]. I always feel inspired after visiting her.

You co-own Nutz Tattoo. Is this your dream job?

It is definitely my dream job. Although it's much harder than I thought it would be, I wouldn't change it for anything. Until now my tattooing and piercing time has been split quite evenly throughout the day, but tattooing is definitely starting to take over. So I have to plan carefully. We work on the general management of the shop in the mornings before we open, and I usually do all my drawings at home in the evenings. We have a lovely receptionist, Kipper, who helps with the everyday running of things. The customers seem to like him, too, so everything is working out just right.

Any advice you'd like to give our readers?

As Kipper says to our customers: "Act in haste, repent at leisure". We are asked for cover-ups on a daily basis, so think carefully and do your research before you get tattooed.

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Photography:Tina Korhonen (www.tina-k.co.uk)
Make-up and hair: Jo Smedley



backstage

Crispy Lennox

It was the end of the 2011 London Tattoo Convention and things were winding down. As always it had been a crazy three days. One last orbit of the show and I could hit the road. Ambling through the now almost empty aisles I came across one remaining pocket of activity, so of course I had to go and investigate. It turned out to be the Black Garden Tattoo Studio booth. Some guy called Crispy Lennox had just finished a piece, and there was a buzz all around. The work was super-clean, ultra-smooth and had a strong style all of its own. What choice did I have but to find out more?

So, Crispy, where did it all start?

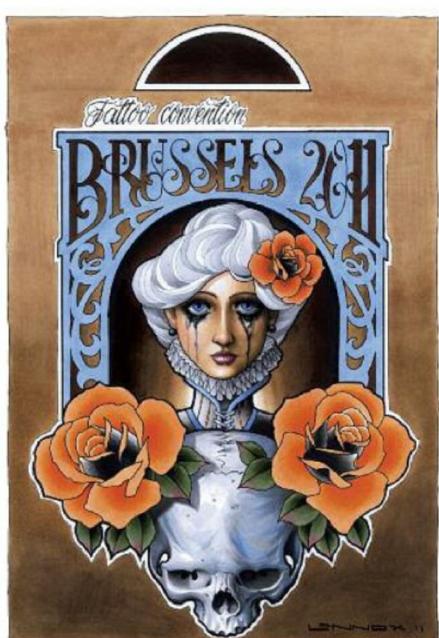
I seem to have been around tattoos for as long as I can remember. My old man has tattoos and my brother, who is four years older than me, started to get a lot of work done as soon as he was old enough. The music I liked and the alternative scene I was into, tattoos were everywhere I looked. High school left me with a really bad taste in my mouth regarding teachers and authority and things like that, and I really had no idea what I was going to do with my life. Somehow or another I ended up buying some tattoo equipment and doing exactly what I shouldn't have done – starting to tattoo from home. After about a year I knew I wanted to do this thing properly and needed to get an apprenticeship.

Was that an easy thing to do?

In the town I'm from on the Gold Coast it's about 90% biker shops. The Australian tattoo industry is pretty heavily biker run. I found the one shop which was not run by them, which was Paul Braniff's Gold Coast Tattoos. He's an old school guy who had been tattooing for about 30 years. I went in to see him and told him what I was doing. He told me to stop all that stuff, and said that if I was really serious about tattooing I should learn to draw and go to art school. So that's basically what I did. Every two weeks I took my artwork to his place to show him what I was doing (back then I was attracted to fantasy art by people like Simon Bisley and Gerald Brom). That went on for about a year and then Paul gave me an



apprenticeship, which lasted for four years. I worked there for five years, then I moved over here to the UK.



Did you feel that you needed to break away in order to develop as an artist?

It was always my plan. I wanted to travel and I wanted to work with new people and experience different cultures. I worked my first convention about two years ago and that really opened my eyes to the benefits of working with other artists. Australia had a really small convention circuit at that time, just a few shows a year nationwide.

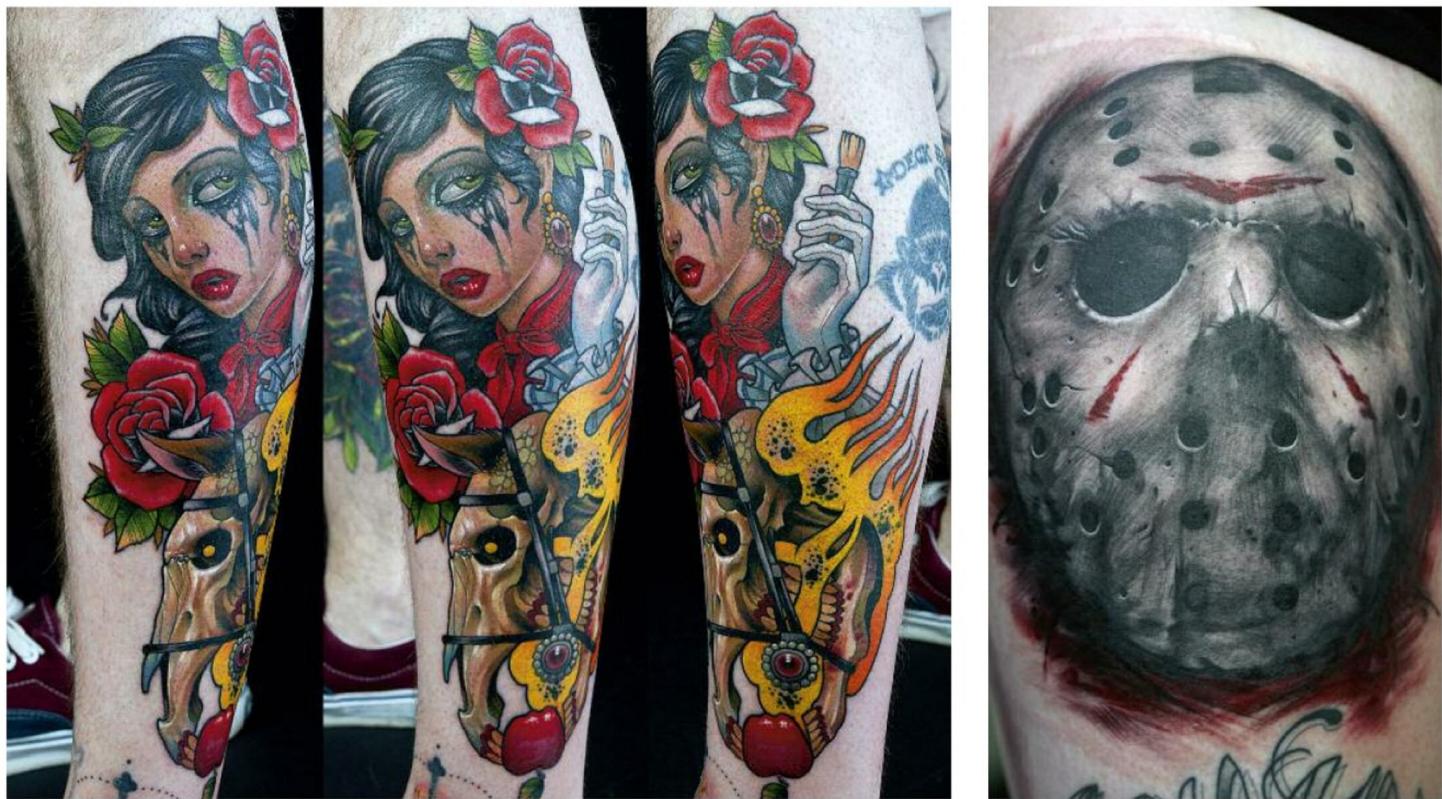
Was London your first port of call?

Yes, the original plan was to come to London first and then move somewhere else in the UK but my wife and I loved London so we settled here. And we will be here for at least the next year – until our visas run out. We plan on taking a van and driving around Europe for about three months in the summer and I've got a few guest spots lined up. Once the visa is up my wife and I will head straight back to Australia, perhaps to Melbourne. I think the tattoo scene in Australia is strongest there.



Are there any artists currently working in Australia that you would like to work with?

Yes, there's Owen Williams and Evan Griffiths – they are both amazing – and Rachi Brains up in Brisbane... there are actually quite a few. In the last few years Australia has really stepped it up. There are a lot of new names appearing who weren't on the radar three or four years ago and this is really exciting.



How would you describe what you're doing at the moment? There is a recurring theme of women's faces...

When I first moved to London, I would just sit down and sketch and sketch and sketch. Sketching for yourself is where you really develop new ideas; I wish I had more time to do it now. I have always liked drawing girls so I started doing loads of them and then I put them on Facebook and they got a lot of attention. One thing led to another! Facebook is actually a bit of a pain in the arse but without it I wouldn't be doing half the stuff I'm currently doing. I'm influenced by my background in illustration and I take inspiration from other forms of art outside tattooing – and I think this comes across in my work. It's not neo-classical or traditional... I don't really know how to describe it. Since moving to London my work has changed a lot. It used to be portrait-style realism – so no lines. I've only started working in my current way in the last twelve months. I feel I now know the direction I want to take.



Are there times when you need to put down the machine, take time out, draw more and develop new ideas?

Definitely. I'm really looking forward to the van trip this summer because it will give me three months of sketching time. I'll really be able to develop what I've been working on here in London. It's important to me that my work looks like mine and not somebody else's. This is the biggest thing that's shaped what I do. I think Grime put it well in his documentary when he said, "If my work looks the same as the guy's down the street, why would you come to me?" I spend an awful lot of time studying other people's work. If it's a cool tattoo then what makes it a cool tattoo? Is it the line work, the shape, the composition, the flow? When I came to London I was the new kid on the block again and nobody knew my work. I took that as an opportunity to re-shape what I was doing, to go back to the start. I sort of re-invented myself. Being stuck in one place for so long, I'd been in a familiar pattern. Somehow I'd ended up doing custom work that I didn't really want to do, if that makes sense.



So what was it like working at the London Tattoo Convention?

It was an amazing and very humbling experience. It's a show that I have always held in high regard, ever since I started tattooing. Everybody knows about the London Show. I didn't even think that the first time that I went to it I would be working there! But the downside was that I worked too much and didn't get to see enough. I love conventions. It's the coolest thing, working with such a variety of artists.



To see more of Crispy's work – and if you'd like to find out where and when he'll be available before he returns to Australia – visit

<http://www.facebook.com/crispylennox>

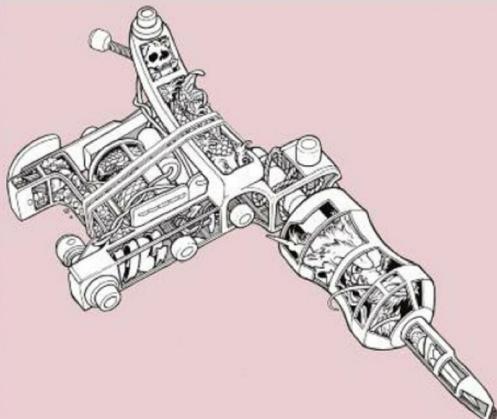
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Report and photos by Perry

portsmouth tattoo extravaganza

1.



2.



1. the sail of portsmouth
2. 'father' clive with 'capt' reno
3. kyle by steffano, frith street
4. by dan smith,
high voltage tattoo (usa)
5. hannah aitchison (left)
6. shotsie gorman
7. darren stares (right)
8. joe capobianco
9. dan smith
10. by hannah aitchison,
deluxe tattoo (usa)

It's common knowledge that there has always been a strong link between tattoos and the sea. You can certainly feel this connection in Portsmouth, with its long naval history. 2011 saw the first Tattoo Extravaganza, with its excellent line-up of artists, old and new, UK and international. How would this year's event compare? I am pleased to report that what started out as a great show just got better!

The Extravaganza moved venue this year to the Pyramid Centre leisure resort, a large purpose-built civic amenity situated right on the seafront, close to the shops and with plenty of available parking. All the artists were housed together in the main hall – about 60 of them in total. Booths were small, but this only added to the bustling and friendly vibe that permeated the whole weekend. Everyone seemed to be in a really good mood! The show felt busy right from the off, which is perhaps not surprising in an ink-minded town that boasts over a hundred registered tattoo studios of its own. When you factor in the amazing line-up of artists – and the opportunity to get work from some of the legends in the business without the long waiting lists or the expensive flights – it's no wonder this event is so well supported.

The proportion of internationally known tattooers is extremely high for a show of this size. World-famous names like Joe Capobianco, Hannah Aitchison, Joseph Ghillier, Antonio Proietti, Cecil Porter, Neusky, Dan Smith and Lyndsy Carmichael – to mention just a few – rubbed shoulders with our very own UK tattoo masters Lal Hardy, George Bone, Derek Cambell, Kev Shercliff, Darren Stares, Fiona Long... the list goes on, but I am sure you get the idea. (The full roster is available at www.tattooextravaganza.co.uk) Intermingled with the great and the good was a fair proportion of new young talent – Stefano C from Frith Street Tattoo, Antonio Furci, Joel Ollafson, Aaron Willet, Jagz Singh – showing that the future of tattooing seems to be in good hands.

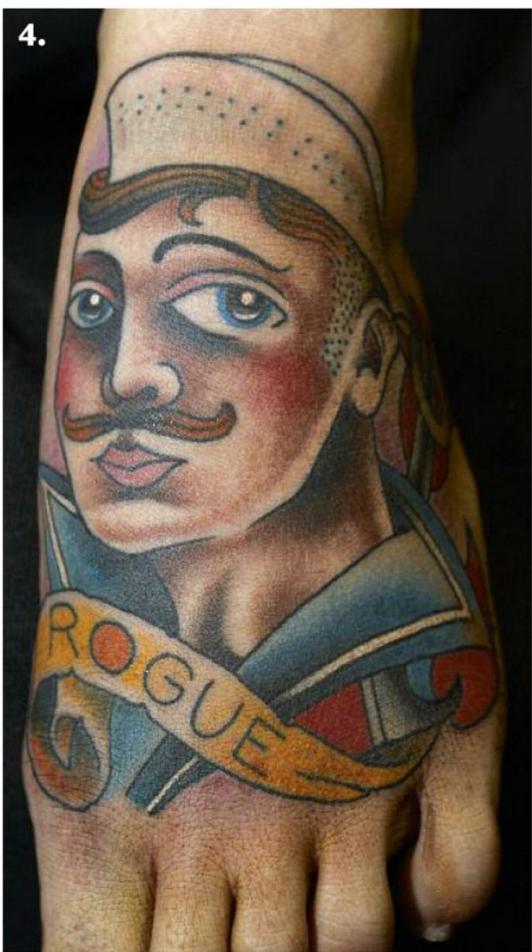
Most of the artists were working solidly throughout the weekend and, as you would expect, the standard of tattooing was extremely high. I was particularly impressed at the speed with which some of the artists were working. It seemed that within minutes of finishing a piece many of them were already halfway through the next! There were so many great tattoos done during the show. One that stands out for me was the tattoo of the Titanic on a guy's hand – done on the 100th anniversary (to the exact day) of the ship's tragic sinking. The tattoo was done by Craig Kelly from Belfast, the very city where the doomed ship was built (see pic 15).

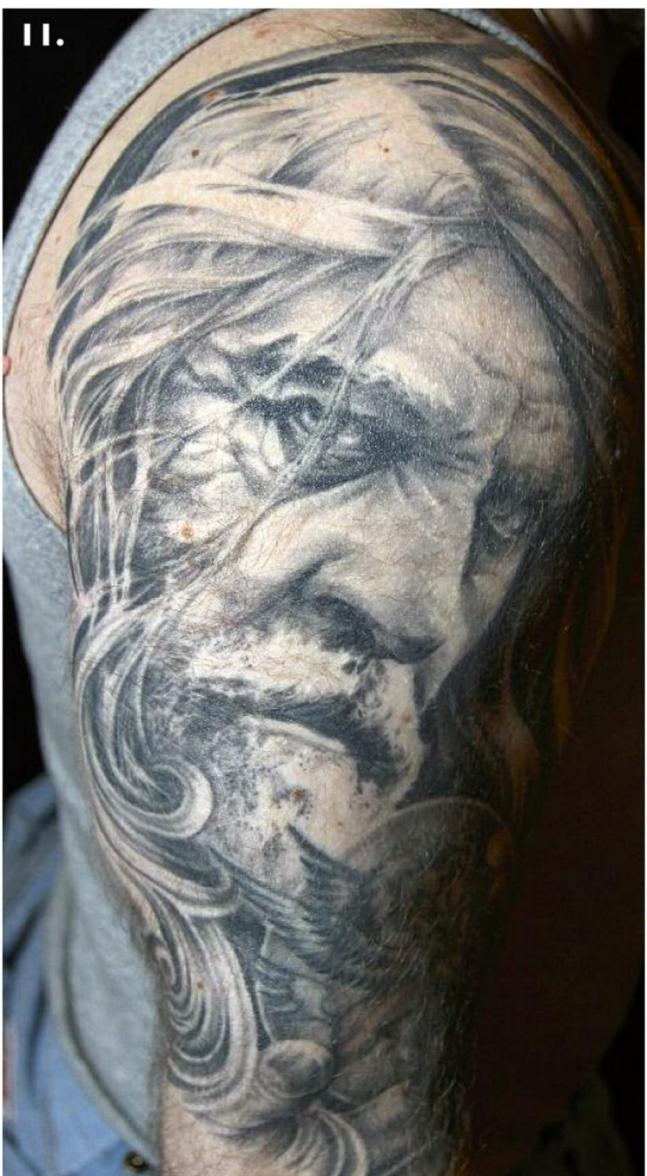
A large stage area was put to good use over the weekend by burlesque beauty Belle La Donna, who performed several seductive routines, as well as local bands The Decaders, Orange Street and (my personal favourites, back for a second year) The Racketeers with their Ska/bluebeat, hi-tempo style. Not forgetting of course the all-important competitions, which took place on the Sunday. There were large numbers of entrants and the judging was fast and efficient.

Unfortunately the prizegiving was held off until Sunday night, by which time many people had left... which meant they missed seeing Lal Hardy award the Dave Ayres Memorial Trophy to George Bone, and Cecil Porter pick up the award for Best International Artist. A full list of winners is printed at the end of this report.

This year's guest of honour was the super-friendly Shotsie Gorman, a man who has done so much for tattooing on a global scale as well as in his home country of the United States of America. On the Sunday morning Shotsie gave a seminar on the subject of Unlocking Creativity that was open to all. It proved to be a great hit and many people went away inspired, invigorated and – indeed – unlocked. Some even managed to leave the show sporting a brand new Shotsie Gorman tattoo.

Every convention is different and every convention plays to its individual strengths. The Tattoo Extravaganza is no different, and what Reno, Gary and the Portsmouth team managed to achieve is quite remarkable: a small show with top-drawer artists from all over the world, in a venue that came into its own and really worked, all wrapped up in a fun relaxed atmosphere. What more could anyone wish for? I personally loved it and I can't wait for next year...





15.



16.



17.



11. dave by ceri williams, inklination
12. joel by aaron willet, unique tattoo
13. martine by joseph ghiller, ghiller's tattoo (malta)
14. loren by emma, lady luck
15. kelsey by craig kelly, on the road
16. steve by scott hansler, kingston ink
17. alex by jagz singh, body images



18.



19.



20.



21.



22.



Winners

Male Small – Joe by Aaron Willet, Unique Tattoo

Female Small – Darcia by Roman Todorov, Romy's Tattoo Workshop (Italy)

Male Large – Chris by Joseph Ghiller, Ghiller's Tattoo (Malta)

Female Large – Violet by Roman Todorov, Romy's Tattoo Workshop (Italy)

Oriental – Scott by Derek Campbell, Ultimate Tattoo

Realistic – Ashley by Cecil Porter, Cecil Porter Studios (USA)

Black and Grey – David by Steve Hunter, Touch of Ink Tattoo

Tribal – David by Steve Hunter, Touch of Ink Tattoo

Best of Show – Chris by Maris Pavaloski, Hammersmith Tattoo

Best Overseas Artist – Cecil Porter, Cecil Porter Studios (USA)

Dave Ayres Memorial Trophy – George Bone

18. rich by clive bilham, ink to envy
19. steph by roman todorov,
romy's tattoo workshop (italy)

20. tomo by darren stares,
unique tattoo

21. by joe capobianco,
hope gallery (usa)

22. the beautiful trophies

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1. alex by sam ricketts, wood street tattoo
2. liam by lianne moule, immortal ink
3. steve vinall of the family business, hard at work
4. glorious northern sunshine
5. ross by richie clarke, forever true
6. mike by lisa toye, powerhouse tattoo



the north lakes tattoo show

Report and Photos by James



5.



6.

You know that feeling when you've acquired a taste for something and nothing else quite hits the spot? Well, that is what's happened with The North Lakes Tattoo Show. It's been running for five years now and right from the very start it's been quite unlike any other convention. The thing about this show is that it has a relaxed pace and a truly mellow atmosphere that you simply don't find anywhere else. Carlisle – nestled on the fringes of the majestic Lake District – is an undeniably long haul for us southerners. However, once you've been there for the first time it doesn't seem to matter that you might have to go a bit out of your way to get there, because you just know that the thing you're craving is at the end of the journey. At some shows the pace is 100mph from start to finish... but with this event you just hit cruise control and enjoy the ride.

The organisers of the North Lakes Show believe that all you really need for a good convention is great artists and nice people. The entertainment that's on offer is as follows: you can get a tattoo, you can buy a drink, and you can enjoy some conversation. That's the sum total of it. Because there's no scheduled entertainment to speak of, you simply let time drift by; the only way to measure it is by the progress of all the tattoos being done. It's a truly relaxed state of affairs.

The layout of the show was much the same as last year, with only some minor tweaks so that all the artists could be in the main hall. This definitely worked. The artists were not packed in like sardines, but the room was busy and everybody had their head down and their eyes on the prize... the prize being a great tattoo!

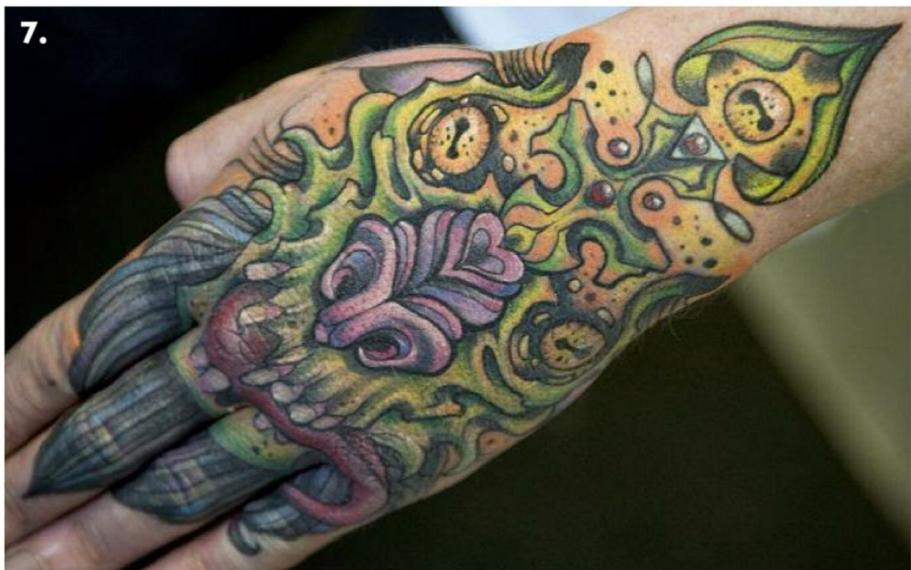
Many of the same artists return to this event year after year, and that in itself tells you a lot. This is a show that is held in high regard by the industry. There were studios from all parts of the UK. Physical Graffiti and The Swansea Tattoo Company had made the journey up from South Wales, Immortal Ink and Jayne Doe had travelled from Essex, Black Garden and Jolie Rouge came from London, and Kustom Kulture had made the long journey from Somerset. Custom Inc had breached Hadrian's Wall and made their way across the Scottish border as had Stephen Wrigley's Irezumi Tattoo and Lab Monkey. The list, as always, goes on. This small show has always boasted heavyweight talent, but refreshingly there's not a sniff of an ego in the house.

A little reminder of who we need to thank for where tattooing is at today was supplied by Jimmie Skuse and Rambo. Although they had only brought a minuscule sample of what they have saved and collected over the years it was more than enough to fire the imagination. I even got to hold one of Rambo's Sailor Jerry machines. I realise that officially makes me a geek, but it was a thrill to hold a machine that the great man had himself once held. If you wanted to talk history, they were only too happy to oblige and there's no doubt they added a certain something to the proceedings.

If you were hell-bent on parting with more of your hard-earned pennies there was also a slightly smaller room with stallholders – and of course there was the bar upstairs. This year, the competitions were also held up there.

So, all in all, North Lakes did exactly what I had hoped and expected it would do. It just unfolded at a leisurely pace, with no sense of urgency. The guys who put it on, Colin 'Doc' Fell and Mike Haslam from Mike's Tattooz in Carlisle, really know what they are doing. (Mike sadly couldn't be at the convention this year due to ill health. We wish him well.) Colin's incredibly laid-back announcements really do set the mood for the event and let you know that there is no need to get your knickers in a twist. At the end of the weekend I left for home feeling rested and relaxed, which made a real change from some of the other equally enjoyable but very different conventions I encounter on my regular trips in the name of tattooing.

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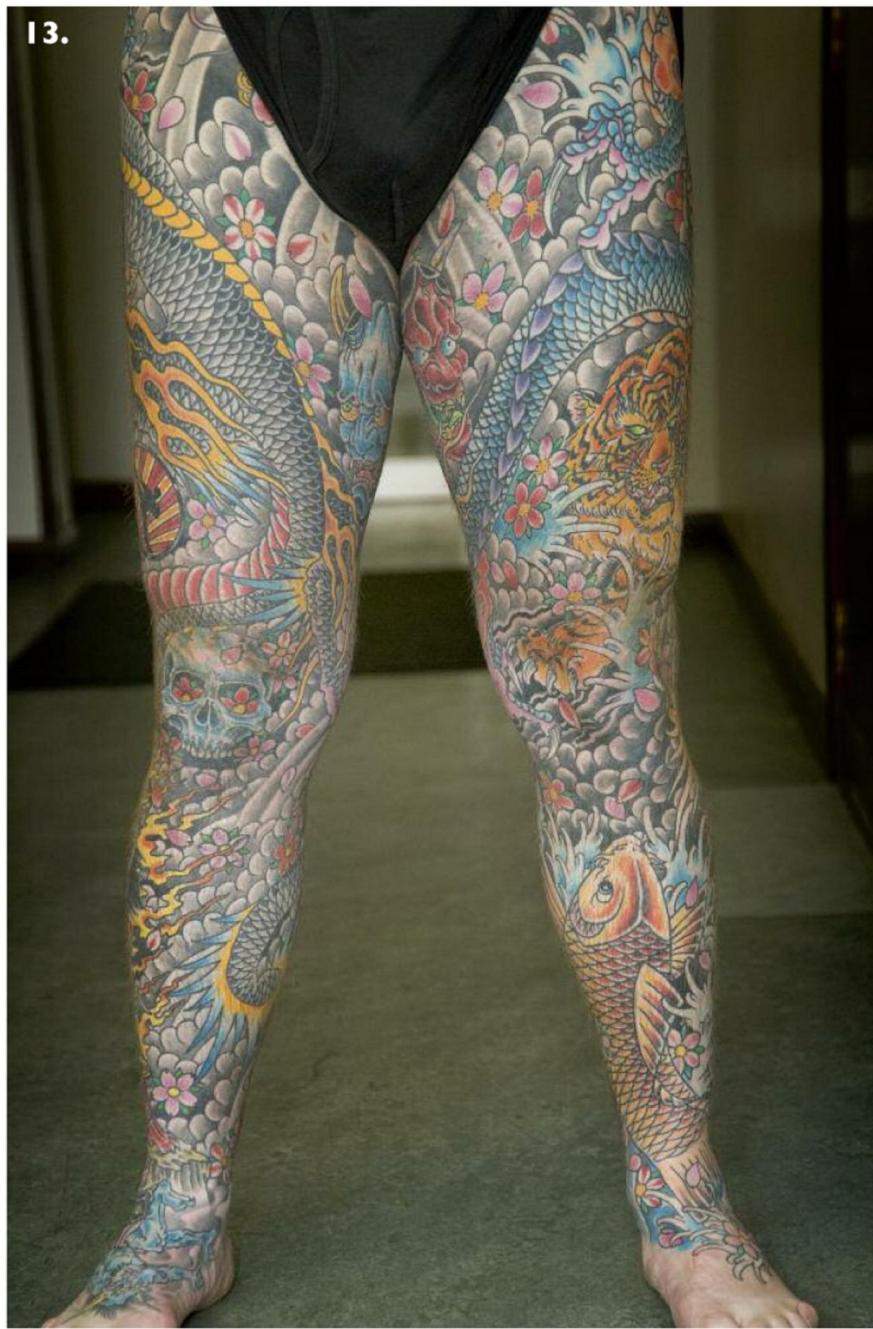


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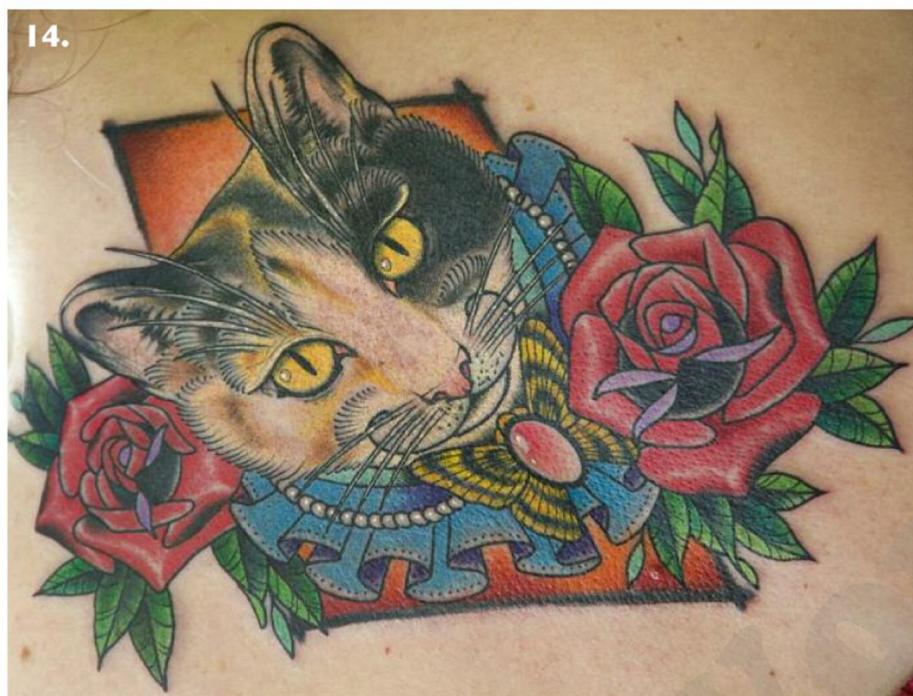


11.





- 7. richie by otick one, power studios
- 8. kevin by eckel,
times of grace (germany)
- 9. scott by chris jones, physical graffiti
- 10. a little bit of the past, courtesy
of jimmie skuse and rambo
- 11. chris jones of physical graffiti
- 12. brian by roy priestley, skinshokz
- 13. scott by steven wrigley, irezumi tattoo
- 14. by cesar, body garden tattoo
- 15. jillian by helen, gung ho!





16. by ema, custom inc
17. by mr greg, rock n roll tattoo
18. by bez, triplesix studios
19. adam by martin couley,
couleys tattoo
20. victoria by tem, hope and glory
21. mike by simon earl, jayne doe

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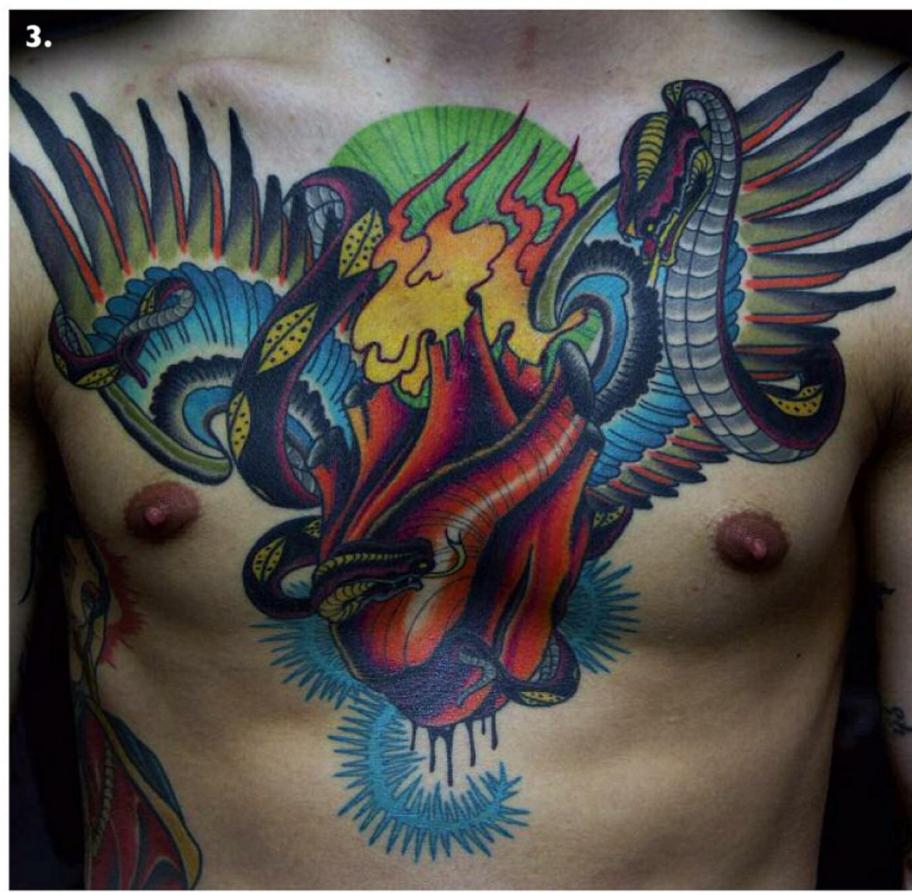
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Don't forget to include the artist and studio name with all submissions.



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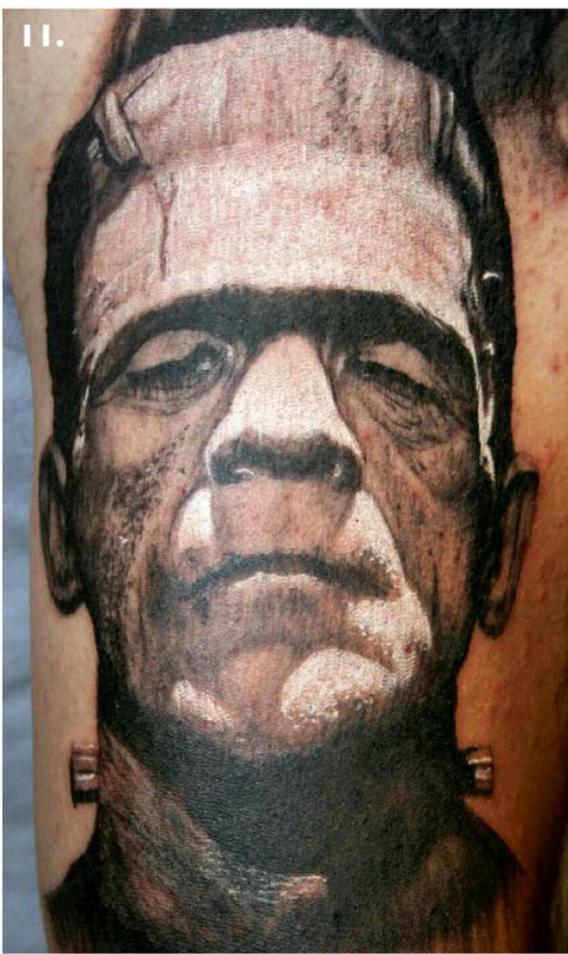
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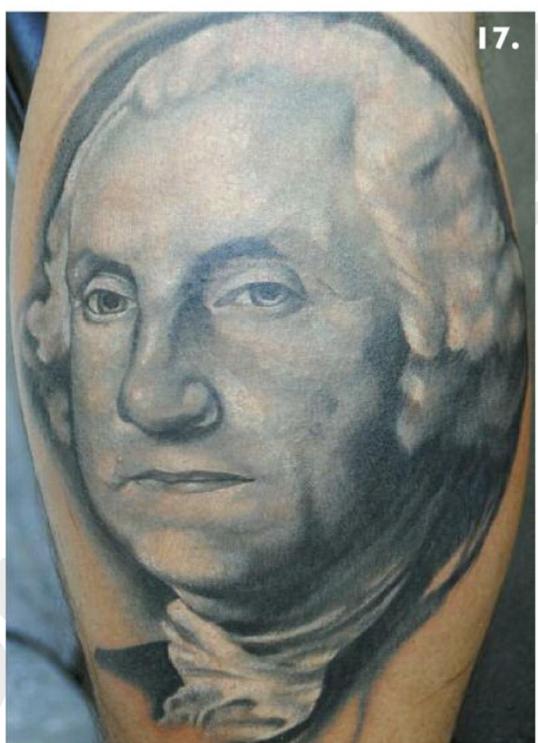
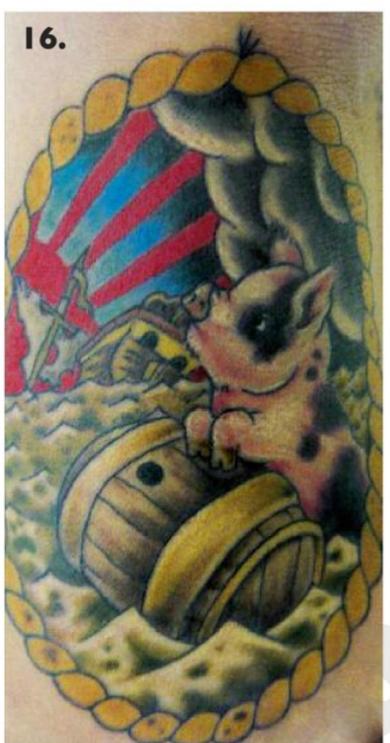
8.



7.



9. jeremy furniss, the shop (australia)
10. memo espino, insight studios (usa)
11. dustin burt, sugar city tattoo (usa)
12. chris ormond, kri8tor (malta)
13. dan gold, gold tattoo club
14. pontus jonsson, alternative art (sweden)
15. ian mcalister, red hot and blue
16. martin crosthwaite, flaming gun
17. lee o'gorman, wayne's tattoo world (usa)





18. scott owen, mantra tattoo

19. joseph bergeron, revolution ink (usa)

20. maneki stefy,
adrenalink tattoo (italy)

21. leah moule, spear studio

22. clint walker, artium ink

23. gemma osbourne, sub rosa

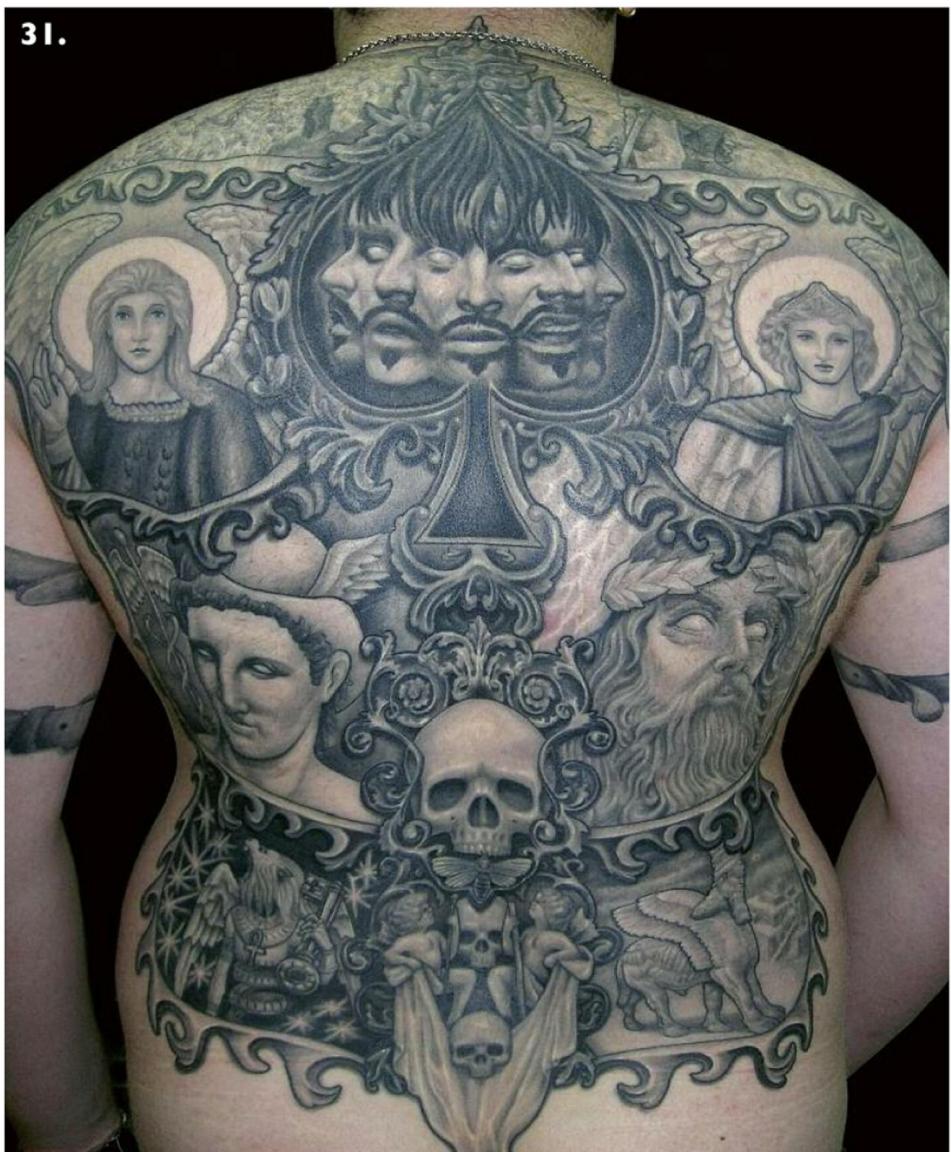
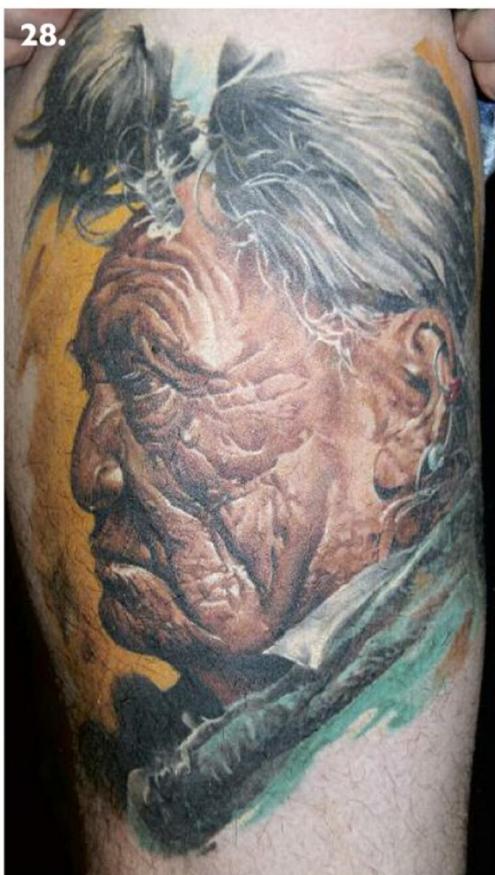
24. spencer scott, eternal art

25. daniel acosta, duquesa collective (usa)

26. alex bage, fat panda tattoo studio







27. clive bilham, ink to envy

28. dmitriy samohin,
ink army (ukraine)

29. mark cummings, tnt tattooing

30. stewart robson,
frith street tattoo

31. roey pentagram,
pentagram tattoo (israel)

32. kirt silver, silver tattoo (canada)

33. kiley, cult classic

34. michelle turco,
da cosa nasce cosa (italy)

35. jordan croke, second skin

32.



33.



34.



35.



36.



37.



38.



39.



36. shannon richard,
str body modifications

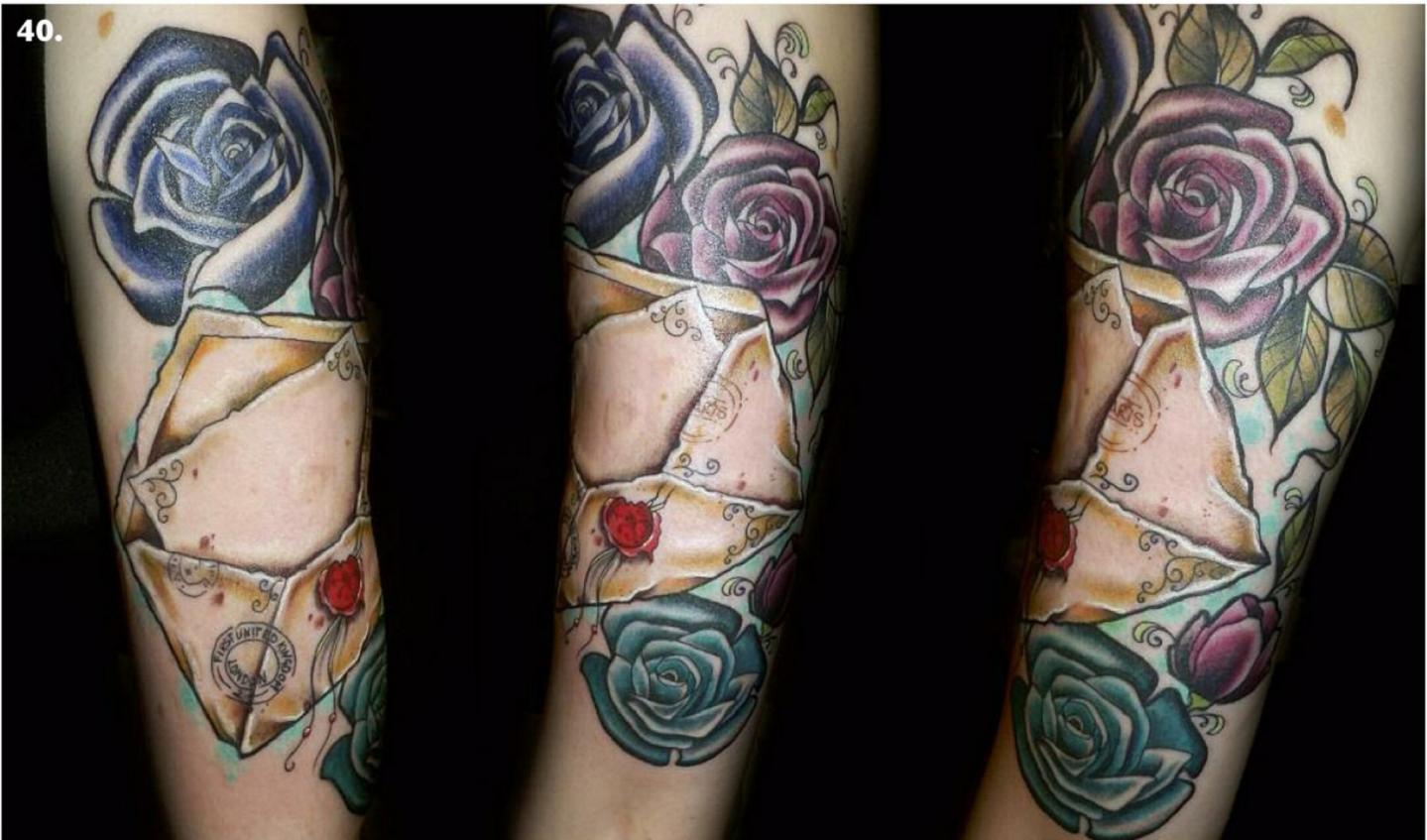
37. richard guy, the tattoo lounge

38. nico, noir tattoo (switzerland)

39. owen williams,
tama tattoo (australia)

40. joanne black, black inc

40.



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Interviews

- **Creative Vandals** – The new school tag team
- **Shotsie Gorman** – Free-spirited creative visionary

Features

- **Jake Allen** – Tattoos and rock'n'roll
- **Lars Krutak** – The art of magical tattoos
- **Mugshot** – Dave the Buddha shares his secret life
- **Private View** – Illustrative world of Sneaky Mitch

Conventions

- The Liverpool Tattoo Convention
- Northampton Tattoo Convention
- West Coast Tattoo Show, Vancouver
- Now is Forever Tattoo Art Show, Luxembourg

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mugshot

We ask tattooists some probing questions
and encourage them to reveal
a different side of themselves!

This month

Gary Wiedenhof Inkredible Kreations



What makes you happy?

Pints of gin and lemonade for supper....Yay!

What makes you angry?

Folk with no common sense. But don't make me angry. You wouldn't like me when I'm angry.

What was the last book you read?

Facebook!

What was the last movie you saw?

The Muppets.

What would you eat for your last meal on earth?

Bono or Paul McCartney....

If you won the lottery what is the first thing you would buy?

An army of hot midgets and a sheep dip full of liquid latex, two alpacas and a pizza.

Who would play you in the movie of your life?

Gary Coleman or Tattoo from Fantasy Island.

What pets do you have?

Five dogs, two cats, fish, two snakes, two rats, two lizards... and a big boat in the garden!



What song would be the soundtrack to your life?

Anything by Zanger Bob (Google it – you'll see).

What would your super power be?

....these are not the droids you are looking for! [waves hand in front of face]

What achievement are you most proud of?

Pizza. Not a personal achievement, but one to be proud of nonetheless.

What is your biggest regret?

Telling the kid next door to my mum that jobbies (that's Scottish for poo) were chocolate. That went all kinds of wrong....

What keeps you awake at night?

At present, my nine month old English

bull terrier who is currently dispensing yodelling lessons to anyone who will listen (and anyone who won't). There are not many goatherds in my area at 4am.

What is the best lesson life has taught you?

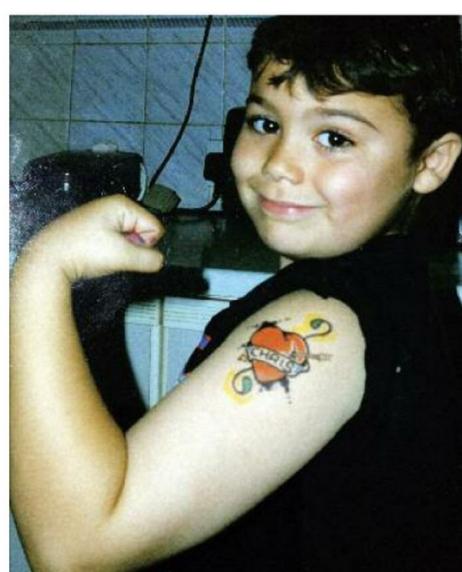
If you buy cheap bog roll, cut yer nails.

How would you like to be remembered?

Arms cut off first, then legs and head, followed by other appendages.

What is your favourite tattoo that you have done and why?

See photo....



Finish this sentence:

Gary Weidenhof is... misspelled

Next Month

Dave 'The Buddha' Ashton

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